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NEWS SUMMARY

GENERAL

Schmidt hopeful on EEC budget

New hopes for a solution to Britain's demands for reduced contribution to the EEC budget emerged from talks between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and West Germany's Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, at Chequers.

Herr Schmidt said agreement was possible providing constructive use was made of the weeks between now and the delayed Brussels summit, which will probably be held late next month. He stressed, however, that Bonn would not mediate between Britain and France.

The European Court of Justice has ruled against the European Commission's application for an interim injunction to stop illegal French restrictions on imports of British lamb. Back Page

British wife to be lashed

British surgeon's wife Mrs. Penelope Arnot has been sentenced to 80 lashes by a Jeddah court for serving alcohol at a party at which an English nurse and a Dutchman died.

Her husband has so far served five months of a one-year jail sentence for breaking the Saudis' strict alcohol laws.

Nalgo settle

Threat of disruption to Easter holiday flights was lifted when Nalgo agreed to pay rises of up to 18 per cent for local authority workers, including air traffic controllers at municipal airports. Back Page

Air fares rise

British domestic air fares will rise by an average 12.5 per cent on Tuesday. Page 4

Police shoot four

Four suspected terrorists, one a woman, were shot dead by police who raided a flat in Genoa. Police said the gang may have been members of the Red Brigades, the group which has claimed responsibility for most of Italy's 17 terrorist assassinations this year.

Landslip kills 62

At least 62 people died when torrential rain caused a landslide in Central Turkey. Most of the victims were buried in their mud huts.

Three questioned

Three people have been helping with inquiries in connection with City and Metrpolitan Police fraud squad investigations into dealing on the London Metal Exchange, City of London Police said. Three companies were named as being involved. Back Page

Kelly inquest

Police panda car knocked down James Kelly shortly before he died in custody, a witness alleged at Merseyside inquest into the unemployed labourer's death.

Gold Cup test

Tied Cottage, winner of the Cheltenham Gold Cup two weeks ago, failed a routine dope test after the race, it was revealed yesterday.

Faulty cars

Nearly 60 per cent of new cars had a fault when delivered, says Office of Fair Trading survey. Page 4

Briefly . . .

Pakistan's President Zia has banned male spectators from women's sporting events.

Six men were still being questioned by police last night following the £4m silver bullion robbery at Barking, Essex.

BUSINESS

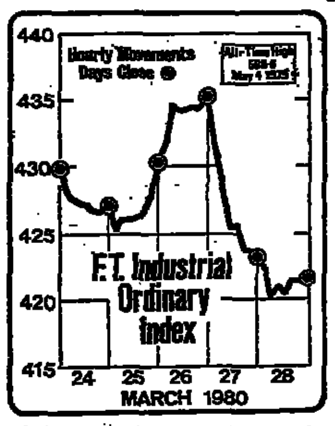
Sterling firmer; Gold up $12

● DOLLAR was helped by U.S. prime rate rise, and it rose to DM 1.9290 (DM 1.9220). Against the Swiss franc it fell back, however, closing at SwFr 1.8250 (SwFr 1.8300). Its trade-weighted index fell to 90.3 (90.4).

● STERLING was slightly firmer, closing at $2.1740, a fall of 15 points. Its trade-weighted index rose to 72.6 (72.5).

● GOLD rose $12 in London to close at $485.

● EQUITIES were largely dull, the FT 30-share index closing



1.6 down at 421.5, its lowest for nearly 11 weeks.

● GILTS seemed unsure of Government monetary policies, and longs remained dull, although there was a good rally in shorts. The Government Securities index was 0.28 down at 64.02.

● WALL STREET was 12.63 up at 772.61 near the close.

Bank bolsters Swiss franc

● SWISS franc rallied after the Swiss National Bank announced it would intervene heavily to stabilise the currency in a move aimed particularly at boosting it against the Deutsche Mark. Back Page

● CHINA has begun talks with IMF officials about re-joining the organisation. Page 3

● FIRESTONE and Goodyear, U.S. tyre companies, have had their credit rating lowered by Standard and Poor's, the rating agency. Page 21

● NETHERLANDS says it will deliver contracted volumes of gas to foreign customers, but equipment is to be installed to allow supplies to be shut-off if customers do not agree to higher prices. Page 3

● SOCIETE GENERALE, state-owned French bank, is to make a rights issue after Easter leading to a public shareholding of 12.5 per cent. It follows a 23 per cent fall in net profits for 1979. Page 21

● PORT shop stewards meet on Tuesday to discuss the stoppage by Merseyside dockers in a dispute over handling a steel cargo. Page 4

● LEADERS of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff are to oppose moves towards a merger with other white-collar unions for at least a year Page 4

COMPANIES

● IBSTOCK Johnsen, brickmaker and woodpulp agent, finished 1979 8 per cent down at £4.68m (£5.08m), despite record second-half profits of £3.42m (£2.88m). Page 18

● CHANGE WARES, wire-mesh fittings, which recently underwent a big boardroom change, hit problems in the second half of 1979 and is forecasting a loss of more than £1m for the year. Page 18

● LAKE and Elliot, steel castings, reports pre-tax loss of £850,000 for the half-year to January 31 against a £757,000 profit previously. Page 18

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISES		
Treas. Variable '83	£93¼	+ 1/16
Imperial Group	78¼	+ 3¼
Ladbroke	129	+ 7
Matthews (B.)	295	+ 20
Guthrie	912	+ 42
FALLS		
Treas. 12¼pc 2003-05 A	£83¾	− ½
Appleyard	54	− 4
Assoc. Paper	35	− 3
B and Q (Retail)	79	− 6
Barlow Rand	365	− 25
Bell (A.)	158	− 6
Brown and Jackson	138	− 7
Camrex	52	− 7
Canning (W.)	50	− 5
Change-Wares	5	− 2½
Debenhams	89	− 3
Empire Stores	150	− 6
FC Finance	55	− 5
Heath (C. E.)	200	− 8
House of Fraser	127	− 7
Howden (A.)	102	− 7
Johnson Matthey	250	− 10
Lake and Elliot	28	− 12
Lister	53	− 6
Muirhead	195	− 6
Pleasurama	125	− 9
Sharna Ware	150	− 6
Thorn EMI	290	− 6
Williams and James	105	− 5
Willis Faber	240	− 5
Anglo Amer. Crpn.	485	− 45
Gold Mn. Kalgoorlie	175	− 11
Minorco	230	− 34
Randfontein	£27¾	− 1½
Rustenburg Plat.	184	− 21
Samantha	58	− 10
SA Land	304	− 23

Inquiry starts into rig disaster

BY FAY GJESTER IN OSLO, RAY DAFTER AND MARTIN DICKSON IN LONDON

THE QUEST for North Sea oil has taken its greatest toll yet in human lives. Last night 38 men were reported to be dead with 101 more still missing after the capsize of the oil rig Alexander Kielland.

A major international rescue force has lifted 89 survivors from the icy waters around the Edd Field platform, which forms part of the Ekofisk production complex in the Norwegian sector. The rig was being used as a "floating hotel," accommodating offshore oilmen working on the adjacent Edda platform, when one of its five legs mysteriously collapsed on Thursday night. Within minutes the rig had overturned, trapping many of the men.

Throughout yesterday and last night divers struggled to locate the missing men. More than 40 ships, supported by helicopters and large communications aircraft, took part in the rescue operation, the biggest of its type ever mounted in the North Sea oilfields.

Phillips Petroleum, operator of the seven fields in the Ekofisk complex, reduced oil and gas production as a safety precaution. There were fears that the wrecked rig might drift and collide with one of the platforms or major pipelines in the area.

During the day, output was gradually reduced to about half the normal 500,000 barrels a day production level. Only the Tor and Ekofisk fields were left in production; Eldfisk, Cod, Albuskjell and West Ekofisk were all taken out of operation. Normal production cannot be resumed before the Norwegian Oil Directorate gives approval. This was not expected to be given until the rig had been made fully secure.

While the Justice Ministry in Oslo announced the appointment of a four-man commission of inquiry into the disaster, it was learned that Norway's shipping directorate had prevented a replacement hotel rig—of similar design to the Alexander Kielland—from sailing to Ekofisk. The replacement, the Henrik Ibsen, is, like the Alexander Kielland, of pentagonal design, built in France by Compagnie Francaise d'Enterprises Metalliques.

During construction work in a West Norwegian yard, it was found that one of the Henrik Ibsen's five legs had taken in water, apparently through a falty valve at its base. The leg was believed to have been the corresponding one to that which was damaged and broke away from the Alexander Kielland.

Neither CFEM nor Phillips would speculate on the cause of the Ekofisk disaster. Survivors talked of a loud crack just before the rig listed to a 45 degree angle. However, within the offshore industry there were reports that an anchor cable had snapped with the result that the rig collided with the platform. Phillips said that its staff had been "completely absorbed in the rescue operations" and had been too busy to consider the possible cause of the accident. Last night the company added that hope of finding more survivors "must now begin to fade."

The total insured value of the hull of the Alexander Kielland is $51.25m (£23.6m). A significant part of the risk was insured in the Norwegian market by the rig's owners, Stavanger Drilling A/S. Lloyd's of London, one of the pioneers of oil rig insurance, faces claims of around $13m (£6m). London insurance companies face an additional bill of over $19m.

Special reports on the disaster, Page 2

But the accident will have far wider repercussions:

● In Oslo, it was thought the disaster could lead to the Government's postponing yet again the start of exploration in the stormier, deeper waters off Norway's northern coast, north of the 62nd parallel. This was what happened after the first Ekofisk disaster in April, 1977, when crude oil spilled from a blown-out production well. Northern drilling had been scheduled to begin in 1978 but was delayed for two years, ostensibly to allow time for improved anti-pollution measures, but also to allow memories of the accident to fade.

● The sudden collapse and overturning of the Alexander Kielland is likely to prompt official reappraisals of the structural soundness of semi-submersible rigs, particularly those that are converted for work other than offshore exploration. Alexander Kielland had been adapted by the addition of modular deck accommodation units. The vessel was shortly to have been reconverted for exploration work on Shell/Esso's Auk Field in the UK sector of the North Sea.

● It will arouse fresh public concern about safety precautions in the North Sea where, before Thursday night's tragedy, 185 men had died in the UK and Norwegian sectors during the past 15 years. In the UK, the Government-appointed Burgoyne Committee recently reported that although the offshore industry had had considerable success in avoiding major disasters, there were areas where the accident record could and should be improved. It recommended that health and safety offshore should come under a single agency—though it was divided as to who should run this.

Urgent talks follow U.S. silver crisis

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

MR. HAROLD WILLIAMS, Chairman of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, made an emergency trip to New York yesterday for talks with Stock Exchange officials, as Wall Street strove to recover its balance after Thursday's silver crisis.

The silver market opened on time despite an attempt by Bache group, one of the brokers at the centre of the crisis, to delay the opening on the grounds that there was a market emergency.

Mr. Williams' talks centred on the capital strength of the numerous brokerage houses which were affected by the collapse of silver prices on Thursday afternoon, and the sharp drop in share prices that followed.

It was not known immediately what the results of his talks were; but officials at both the Stock and Commodity Exchanges said it appeared the crisis was over, provided there was no further sharp drop in the price of silver. In early trading, it rebounded slightly from its Thursday close of $10.80 an ounce, and steadied around $11.00.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Washington market watchdog turned down the Bache request for an opening delay on the grounds that it would "serve no purpose."

The crisis came about when members of Texas oilman Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt's family, who amassed enormous silver positions recently, were hard put to meet their commitments when the price of silver collapsed. Bache, which handles a lot of Hunt business, was forced to sell Hunt silver and shares to raise new capital for the family's trading accounts. Though this did not involve any of Bache's own capital, its shares nevertheless plunged, leading to their suspension.

Bache was yesterday meeting its bankers to let them know the position. But though there was speculation in Wall Street that it might have to raise new capital itself, a spokesman denied that this would be necessary.

The New York Commodity Exchange also announced yesterday that all of its members had been able to cover their losses in silver, though this did not mean that all the firms' clients had necessarily been able to do the same.

The general feeling in Wall Street was that the situation had improved now that it was clear the Hunts had managed to cover their positions. This removed uncertainty about which assets the Hunts would sell to raise capital, and seemed to indicate that there would not be another massive sell-off of silver or other commodities.

In Washington the U.S. Federal Reserve Board is monitoring closely all developments in commodity futures markets, but is unaware of any banks that have anl problems

John Edwards writes: In London silver prices lost further ground yesterday on continued nervous selling. But dealers claimed that the decline was fairly orderly. It was felt the immediate crisis had passed when the New York silver market opened on schedule with an assurance from the exchange's clearing association that all its members had met their margin calls.

London bullion spot quotation for silver was lowered by 89.25p to 644.70p a troy ounce, reflecting the decline in the U.S. markets overnight and the general uncertainty.

Other metals in London were generally steadier, after suffering some heavy losses this week. But world sugar values came down sharply on reports that one of the leading brokers, who had been acting for the Hunt family in the silver market, was a substantial seller in sugar.

Background and markets, Page 5; Feature, Page 16; Lex, Back Page

Ballot on 15% post offer

By Christian Tyler, Labour Editor

A 15 PER CENT pay rise in return for important staffing changes is to be put to a ballot of postal workers, despite a union conference decision to throw out the Post Office's efficiency plans.

The P.O. announced last night that it had reached agreement with the leaders of the 200,000-member Union of Post Office Workers, which would be recommending the package.

UPW executive members pleaded for the efficiency plans to be accepted at a special conference in Bournemouth last week, but were rebuffed by rank and file delegates on almost every point.

The P.O. said last night it had no plans for price increases in 1980, and would meet the £150m cost of the proposed pay deal out of savings. It would meet the financial targets agreed with the Government, including the cash limit.

Post Office negotiators had privately budgeted for a pay increase, due on April 1, of around 11 per cent, in response to the UPW's 20 per cent claim. They appeared confident last night that the 15 per cent package described as the most the Post Office

Continued on Back Page

U.S. prime rate at 19¼-19½%

BY DAVID LASCELLES IN NEW YORK

MAJOR U.S. banks increased their prime rate to a record 19¼ and 19½ per cent yesterday, fulfilling predictions that this key rate would edge towards 20 per cent before there is any chance of a fall.

Citibank of New York led the move with a ¼ per cent rise to 19¼. First Chicago and Manufacturers Hanover followed.

Later Chemical Bank, Bankers Trust and other banks leapfrogged with a ½ per cent jump to 19½.

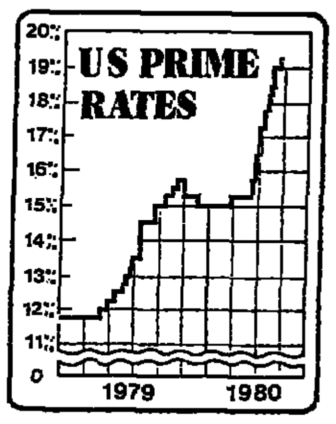
Continental Illinois of Chicago, which raised its prime to 19½ per cent, said: "We feel this is an appropriate rate in view of the shorter-term outlook, and is consistent with the Fed's monetary policies."

The increase came against a background of money market confusion caused by the silver crisis and a soaring Fed funds rate.

The crisis triggered a rush for Treasury bills late on Thursday as investors sought a safe haven for their funds. This drove down bill rates from their recent record levels.

At the same time, short-term money was extremely tight and the Fed funds rate moved erratically across a broad range.

This made it hard for many market economists to track trends. But the underlying movement is still upwards. Yesterday the Fed supplied the funds market when it reached 19⅞ per cent. This was ⅞ per



cent higher than the day before.

The Fed's recent credit package will not begin to bite until next Thursday, when Banks have to meet the new reserve requirements. There is some anxiety in the markets about the likely direction of rates after the weekend.

The bond market also benefited from the silver crisis. Rates dropped slightly as prices firmed.

£ in New York

—	Mar. 28	Previous
Spot	$2.1705-1715	$2.1760-1780
1 month	0.02dis-0.03pm	0.37-0.32 dis
3 months	0.35-0.40prem	nil-0.10 prem
12 months	0.45-0.55prem	0.10 dis-nil

Ladbroke to sell five provincial casinos to Glasgow company

BY ANDREW FISHER

LADBROKE GROUP is moving out of the casino business after the loss of three London casino licences. It has agreed to sell five of its 11 provincial clubs to Reo Stakis, a Glasgow-based company.

It is also holding talks with other companies over the possible sale of the other six, though it still plans to appeal against the recent High Court refusal to reconsider the withdrawal of the Mayfair licences.

Reo Stakis, a fast-growing hotel and leisure company, is to pay £4.43m cash for the Ladbroke casinos in Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, Middlesbrough and Stockton.

Last year, these clubs made a pre-tax profit of around £1.1m, according to management accounts, although the Stockton and Bristol premises had not been open for a full year.

Reo Stakis, which operates seven casinos in Scotland and five in England, was founded in the 1940s by Mr. Stakis who came to Glasgow from Cyprus between the wars to sell lace. Its trading profits from casinos totalled £1.36m last year.

Ladbroke's deal with Reo Stakis is still subject, however, to any necessary approval by the latter's shareholders and to the transfer of the gaming licences.

Mr. John Loughray, managing director of Reo Stakis, which made a pre-tax profit of £3.56m in the year to September 30, 1979, said the company had applied to the Gaming Board for consent to have the licences transferred.

The next move would then be for Reo Stakis to apply to the licensing justices in the different areas. The earliest date that it could start operating the casios would be June.

Ladbroke's other out-of-London casinos are in Leicester, Luton (the biggest), Manchester and Newcastle, where there are two.

Ladbroke is also still operating the Park Tower Casino in Knightsbridge, London, though the Gaming Board is attempting to have this licence cancelled.

The three Mayfair casinos—the Hertford Club, the Park Lane Casino and the Ladbroke Club—were shut last December after the Crown Court refused the group's appeal against an earlier closure decision on the basis of past misconduct at the casinos. This mainly involved the illegal enticement of gamblers away from rival clubs.

Earlier this month, the High Court rejected Ladbroke's attempt to have the matter reopened, and the group later made 285 employees at the three casinos redundant.

Mr. Stakis and his family own about half of the company, with Scottish and Newcastle Breweries holding 8.4 per cent. S and N has also provided financial backing.

The bulk of the Reo Stakis profits come from its hotels, which produced trading profits of around £4m in 1978-79.

CONTENTS

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THE EKOFISK DISASTER

Ray Dafter, Martin Dickson, Fay Gjester, Lynton McLain, John Moore and Christian Tyler report on the North Sea oilfield catastrophe

Rescuers from five nations on the scene

THE Alexander Kielland disaster set in motion the biggest *rescue operation ever mounted* in the North Sea oilfields. By noon yesterday, at least 24 ships from four nations, more than 12 helicopters, and two large communications aircraft were gathering around the upturned oil rig, searching for survivors.

Appalling weather conditions *made it a particularly tough test* of the emergency procedures *built up over the years to cope* with North Sea disasters.

First indications were that these had functioned reasonably well. But the catastrophe also raises fresh questions about the adequacy of precautionary safety measures in the hostile waters of the North Sea.

The first intimation of disaster was a Mayday call at about 6.30 pm *on Thursday night from the* Alexander Kielland. At 6.53 pm, *Stavanger rescue centre, responsible* for co-ordinating rescue *in Norwegian* waters, requested urgent assistance from its counterpart at *Pitreavie Castle* in Scotland, which is responsible for rescue co-ordination in Northern British waters.

Seven minutes later, the first British rescue aircraft — an RAF Sea King helicopter — had scrambled from Boulmer in Northumberland.

It took 100 minutes to reach the scene of the disaster and as *the rescue crew tried to winch* survivors to safety, they found *conditions extremely dangerous*. The wind was gusting at 55 knots, there was a *200* ft cloud base, and at one point visibility was down to 1,000 metres.

"The conditions were virtually the worst we have been in," *one British helicopter* pilot said later. "We didn't see the platform because the *visibility* was so poor — and we couldn't go near it in case we hit it."

The arriving aircraft included an RAF Nimrod long-range reconnaissance jet which acted as an airborne communications *centre* and dropped flares and lifeboats. A Norwegian air *force Orion* later took on a similar role.

Long before the aircraft reached the scene, survivors *were being plucked from the* water on to the Edda Field production platform — *lying* just 40 yds from the striken rig.

Also on hand would have been the emergency rescue vessel which is mandatory at every offshore platform and other ships summoned fro mnearby *fields*.

The disaster was a test of the code of conduct drawn up two years ago by the UK Offshore Operators' Association (UKOOA) and its Norwegian counterpart. This divided the North Sea into five sector "clubs," members of which would come to each other's aid in an emergency.

The Ekofisk field lies in the "Green Sector," which also *includes Britain's Fulmar and* Auk fields, operated by Shell-Expro, and *the Argyle field*, operated by Hamilton Brothers. Shell-Expro's assistance included the tanker Zafra and its full-time standby vessel on Auk, the Shetland Shore, while Hamilton sent two supply vessels which were on the scene just an hour *after the accident*.

A man swimming in the icy *waters of the North Sea would* be lucky to survive half an hour unless he was wearing a survival suit — bright orange watertight garments used by oilmen — and disaster would appear to have struck the rig too suddenly for many men to don these.

In terms of fatalities, the *accident is by far the worst in* the North Sea. Previously, the *worst in the Norwegian sector* was the death of 18 men in a *helicopter accident in 1978*. Britain's worst accident was in 1965 when the rig Sea Gem sank off the Humber, killing 13 men.

In the 15 years since oil exploration began in the North Sea, 137 men have died in accidents in the British sector and—until Thursday—83 in the Norwegian sector.

The disaster comes at a time when offshore operators are spending increasingly large amounts on emergency support ships, notably so-called multi-functional support vessels (MSVs).

These huge craft combine a number of jobs which would *previously have been done by* several ships, such as firefighting *boats or barges carrying the* equipment needed to plug blow-outs.

The first of these MSVs was introduced by Phillips Petroleum in the Ekoffsk field in December 1977 and a second has just started work in the Occidental consortium's Piper and Claymore fields. Occidental's MSV Tharos cost £40m to build and costs about £50,000 a day *to run*.

Despite such ships, is enough being done to safeguard lives in one of the world's most hostile environments The latest evidence on this subject comes from the recently published *report of the Burgoyne Committee*, set up by the British *Government to assess offshore* safety.

It found *that* although the offshore industry had had considerable success in avoiding major disasters, there were areas where the accident record could and should be improved. This particularly related to the construction of installations, drilling, diving, and the operation of boats and cranes.

The committee recommended that health and safety offshore should come under the control of a single agency, with a majority saying this should be the Department of Energy and a minority arguing that the Health and Safety Executive should take responsibility.

Secretary, confirmed in the House of Commons yesterday that rigs similar to the Alexander Kielland were in use *in the British sector* and that discussions were still going on *to ensure that they fully complied* with the Government's safety standards.

FINAL MOMENTS OF THE FLOATING HOTEL

Divers hammered on the hull of the capsized oil rig Alexander Kielland yesterday in search of signs of life as survivors of the disaster described the final moments of the ill-fated "floating hotel."

Olav Forsheim, a 35-year-old Norwegian, he had been sitting in the rig's cinema, *with 25 to 30 other men*, waiting for the evening's film *to start, when there was a* noise like an explosion.

"*The platform immediately* leaned over and in 15 seconds *it lopsided 30 to 40 degrees*," he told a Press conference. "We were all thrown back against the wall and the lights went out, leaving us in complete darkness. People panicked as everyone was rushing for the doors. I believe quite a few were trapped inside because the doors were jammed.

"I myself managed to get *to the upper deck, which was* already half-way under water. *I grabbed some warm clothes*, an overall and a life-jacket, *realising that my chance was* to jump overboard and try to *swim to the Edda production* rig, some 40 yards away.

"*It may sound an easy task* to swim such a distance, but I can assure you it wasn't. Freezing water, violent winds and heavy waves broke down my strength almost immediately, and I was barely halfway there when a rescue basket was lowered from Edda and I was hauled up."

Tony Sylvester, a 35-year-old Englishman, was another survivor from the cinema. He said it seemed as if a big *wave had hit the rig, followed* by another short one and then *chaos ensued*.

"It was listing right over *and everybody was climbing* up to the top that could make *it and clinging on. Nobody* knew what to do. She stopped at 45 degrees for about 15 minutes and everybody thought that was it. Suddenly it toppled right over and everybody was in the sea. It was really bad. "They couldn't pick us up, the supply boats."

He and five others had managed to get into a life dinghy, where they had drifted for about three hours *before a helicopter finally* came and winched them to safety.

"It was very cold on the *liferaft*," *Mr. Sylvester said*. "We took a bit of water but *we used our shoes to empty* the thing out. It was terrible. Everybody was *vomiting*."

What life is like in the North Sea

THE *Ekofisk* disaster is a reminder of the vulnerability of *the men who work in the North* Sea. Like colonisers of another *planet, they live in artificial* villages suspended 250 feet *above the see-bed* and up to *200* miles from the nearest land refuge.

For every item, whether a cup of coffee or heavy machinery, they depend on the supply boats and helicopters that are often locked up in port by bad weather.

They may be cut off for days at a stretch by high winds and high seas, with waves of 40 feet heaving up to the lower decks of the platforms.

On Ekofisk, in the Norwegian sector, the oilmen are protected by probably the toughest safety *laws in the world as they move* around the slender chain of *bridge-linked platforms, or* are ferried by small helicopters to *outposts like that* at Edda.

Once they touch down atop *the central floating hotel* or "flotel" at Ekofisk for their two-week stint, the men are subject to the strictest rules. Alcoholic drink is absolutely forbidden. A hangover collected ashore is not lightly tolerated. Smokers are confined to a few small areas. Even fishing is forbidden in most places.

The men work 12-hour shifts and are usually too tired to need much entertainment, even if there was space for other activities. But the food on Ekofisk is good.

There is television and film shows. There is even a chapel. *Surprisingly, one* woman

The main grumble of the *men has been about the* cramped "temporary" accom*modation that many of them* have to endure. Not all of

It may well be that the men's demands for better living arrangements when *working* away from the central village were instrumental in getting the Edda "flotel" erected. If so, *it is a tragic example of the* conflict between the demands of pioneering technology and the needs of the men

One of the world's most ambitious offshore projects

THE EDDA FIELD—scene of the catastrophe—was brought into production just four months ago. It was the final link in the $5.8bn development of the Greater Ekofisk oil and gas area, one *of* the most ambitious offshore pro*duction projects ever under*taken.

Seven separate fields make up the Ekofisk complex: Ekofisk itself, the biggest reservoir in the group with well over 1bn barrels of recoverable oil reserves; Eldfisk, Cod, Albuskjell, Edda, West Ekofisk and Tor.

Earlier this month, Phillips Petroleum, as operator for the Ekofisk development, announced that peak oil production rates and recoverable reserves of oil and natural *gas were likely to* be lower than originally *thought*.

Revised figures resulted from *assessments* made *following* recent drilling and field performance studies.

Even so, it was estimated that recoverable reserves of oil and gas, including those fuels already produced, were about 3.2bn barrels of oil and oil equivalent.

This total is some 500m barrels less than the estimate published in June last year, but still maintains Greater Ekofisk's position as one of the biggest three accumulations of oil and gas on the North West European Continental Shelf.

It is a measure of Ekofisk's size, and its importance to U.S.-based Phillips Petroleum, that the company conceded that the recent revision of reserve estimates could cut its own *worldwide reserves* by about 5 per cent.

During February, the production of oil and natural gas liquids averaged 536,000 barrels a day, significantly above the rate of the Forties Field, the most prolific producer in the UK sector of the North Sea. The output of Greater Ekofisk would be sufficient to satisfy some 30 per cent of present UK oil consumption.

Edda is one of the smaller *fields in the group. Industry* estimates put its recoverable *reserves at 60m barrels. In* addition, the field is thought to contain *200bn cu ft of natural* gas.

As with all the satellite fields, Edda is linked with the central Ekofisk production units, a string of nine installations used for production, storage, pumping, accommodation and gas flaring.

From here, the oil is pumped ashore by way of a pipeline to Teesside. Natural gas takes a different route, via a pipeline to Emden in West Germany where one of the energy industry's biggest gas terminals has been constructed; capable of handling 2.1bn cu. ft. a day.

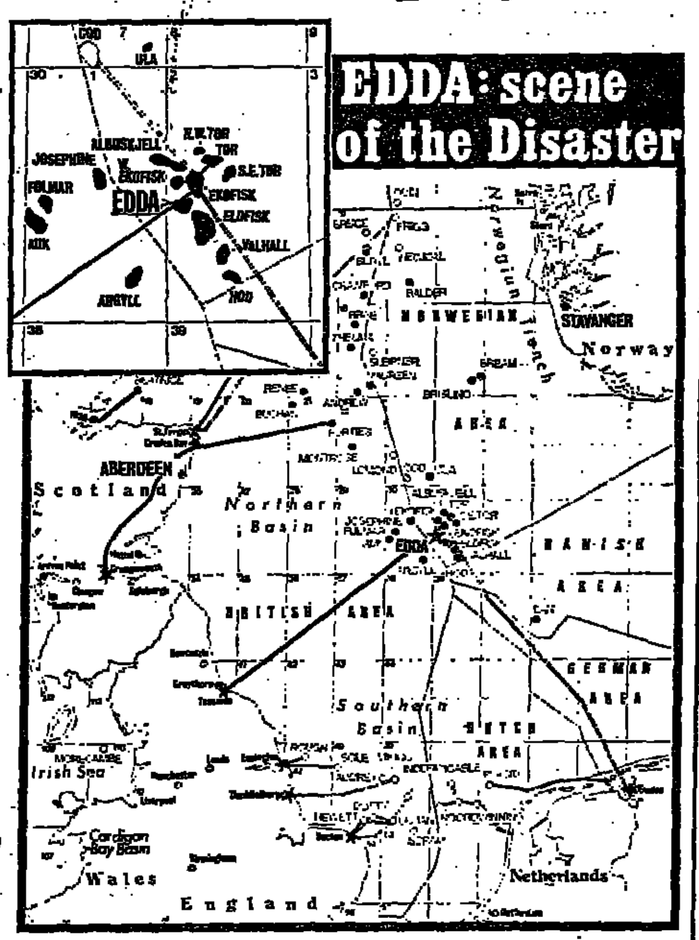
In view of the full-scale rescue operation undertaken yesterday, Phillips reduced and in some cases shut down production from some of its fields *as a precautionary measure*. It was not the first time that *Ekofisk operations have been* hampered by accidents.

An inspection of the oil pipeline in August 1977 showed part of the outer covering had been damaged by a ship's anchor. The line had to be shut down for about 20 days for repairs.

More seriously, in April 1977, a producing well blew out on the Ekofisk Bravo platform. For *over a week*, oil gushed into the sea at the rate of more *than 3,000 tons a day*. Miraculously, no one was hurt; neither *was there any pollution of the* North European coastlines.

Afterwards, Phillips said it had learned a number of "important lessons" from that first Ekofisk Disaster. "Implementation of new safety and control procedures should go a long way towards preventing or minimising similar problems in the future," the company said.

The Alexander Kielland disaster shows that despite all the technical advances and improved procedures, the risks are still great.



Lloyd's faces claims of about £6m for loss of rig

LLOYD'S OF LONDON, the world's oldest insurance market and a pioneer of oil rig insurance, faces claims of about $13m *(£6m)* from the loss of the Alexander Kielland. London insurance companies face a bill of over $19m (£8.8m).

The total insured value of the hull of the Alexander Kielland *is $51.25m. A significant part of* the risk was insured in the Nor*wegian market by the owners*, Stavanger Drilling A/S. But London has become *involved* through the acceptance of 62.5 per cent of the risk in reinsurance.

The latest claim is not a big one by Lloyd's standards, and the risk is likely to spread through the market on many syndicates, so avoiding any punitive individual burdens.

But the loss has come at a time when there is a growing *incidence of losses in off-shore* oil production. Two self-elevating drilling platforms have already been lost off the coast *of Texas this year*.

Last year there were only four *major losses, although under*writers became caught up in a *wrangle over the loss of the* 547-ft oil platform being transported to South America on the barge Intermac 600.

The 5,000-ton platform sank when the barge broke free from tugs in severe weather conditions in the North Sea. Lloyd's *and insurance companies* resisted claims for £10.8m.

The mobile platforms do not represent a headache for underwriters. Their individual values are relatively modest in relation to world capacity of $1bn on individual risks. It is the large fixed platforms such as Statfjord A that carry the high rolling values of, say, $1.5bn.

But where the losses could become serious is if the incidence of claims begins to rise and that was worrying the London insurance market yesterday.

In the past 20 years, as the offshore oil market has developed, so have their insurance requirements. Lloyd's was one *of the first markets to realise* the possibilities of the requirements *of the new infrastructure*.

But inevitably, there were a number of false starts. The premium rates were badly calculated in relation to the size of risks being insured where premium rates were often as low as 1½ per cent of values.

But huge losses as the technology *was becoming* established ensured that underwriters eventually corrected the position and rates rose.

Many oil companies in the early stages passed most of their oil rig business out into the insurance market because it was too much of an unknown quantity to retain a significant part of the risk on their own account, either through their in-house capive companies or through large deductibles (i.e. meeting an established amount of each claim themselves).

There is at present world-wide capacity for individual insured *risks of $1bn with Lloyd's and* London accounting for $600m. *All but the very large risks in* the North Sea can find insurance outside the *self-insurance* market.

Capsize of the Alexander L. Kielland 'inexplicable'

"ABSOLUTELY inexplicable" *was the first reaction yesterday* of CFEM, the French company which made the 12,010 tonne rig.

But the company said from Paris that one theory about what *caused* the rig to capsize was that there may have been an ex*plosion at the head of one of* the five support tubes linking the platform with *the under*water floats.

Another theory was that an *anchor* cable may have snapped, allowing the rig to swing and *crash into the fixed Edda* platform and causing a leg to collapse.

The Alexander L. Kielland is owned by Stavanger Drilling of Norway and was on charter to Phillips Petroleum.

CFEM — Compagnie Francais Enterprise Maritime — has built six other semi-submersible drilling rigs since it entered the market in 1969. Not one has had an accident, "not even a minor one," the company said.

The rigs are now operating in the south Atlantic, off Tierra *del Fuego; in* the Gulf of Guinea; in Libyan waters in the Mediterranean *and three are* still working in the North Sea.

Like the ill-fated Alexander L. Kielland, these rigs operate mainly in deep water. Here the semi-submersible design has clear advantages over other types of drilling equipment.

Exploratory drilling operations in offshore waters are carried *out either from fixed or mobile* rigs. Fixed rigs are usually made of a lattice-work of *heavy steel* tubes, with legs of steel pinned to the rock beneath the sea bed.

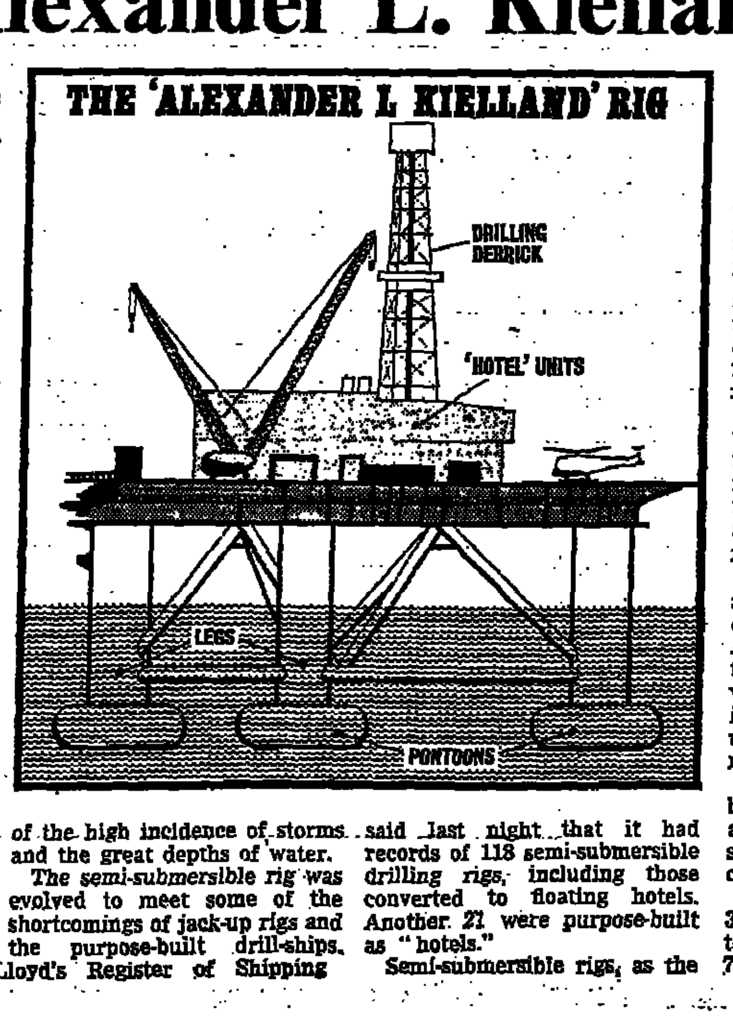
Fixed rigs can drill a number of exploration holes from a fixed *point by sending drills out* at a variety of angles but the depth of water they can *drill* in is limited by the size and cost of the huge steel structures needed.

The alternative is one of the three types of mobile rig: a "jack-up" rig, a drill-ship or a semi-submersible rig.

The "jack-up" rig, as its name suggests, is fully mobile, *but can be fixed over one site* for drilling. However, it is *limited* to water less than *350* feet deep.

Drill-ships offer the ultimate *in mobility. They provide* relatively high speeds between drill sites for units that are completely self-contained. However, their operations are affected by high seas and there are limits to the sea depth in which they can operate.

Nevertheless, between 30 and 40 drill ships are operational in world markets. But few are used in the North Sea, because Lloyd's Register of Shipping said last night that it had records of 118 semi-submersible *drilling rigs*, including those converted to floating hotels. Another *21* were purpose-built as "hotels."



of the high incidence of storms and the great depths of water.

The semi-submersible rig was evolved to meet some of the shortcomings of jack-up rigs and the purpose-built drill-ships.

Semi-submersible rigs, as the name suggests, are half-ship and *half-rig. Instead of a conven*tional ship's hull they have a *number of "floats" or buoyancy* chambers.

The Alexander L. Keilland was a "pentagon" design, with five vertical stubby steel tubes linking the platform — housing the drilling derrick and the accommodation modules — with five "floats," which in practice *do not float on the water*, but rest some feet below the surface.

The distance of the underwater floats from the sea surface is varied for different drilling modes or when the rig is in transit, by allowing a controlled amount of water to enter the floats and the *tube-legs*.

Between eight and 10 anchors are used to steady the rig when on station for drilling. The Alexander L. Kielland also had three 2,000 horsepower engines which could be steered for turn*ing the rig, but were mainly* used with tugs when the rig was moved.

The rig could also be moved by raising selected anchors, allowing the whole structure to swing with the wind and sea current.

The Alexander L. Kielland—338 ft *long* and 325 ft *from top* to bottom with a draught of 72 ft when drilling—was designed to drill in waters up *to 1,200* ft deep.

It was designed for a drilling *crew of 80 but when the accident* happened on Thursday *evening it was being used* as an accommodation rig or "hotel ship," housing about 224 men, all of whom were working on the Edda oil production platform to which it was moored.

It has been normal practice *in the North Sea over the past* two years to convert purpose-built semi-submersible drilling rigs for up to 300 men. Many of the rigs have been short of work, as activity in the North Sea concentrated recently on the development *of existing oil* fields and production platforms. *It is a straightforward* engineering job to install accommodation modules—about the size of a haulage container—on rigs.

One irony of the disaster is that the Alexander L. Kielland was to have been replaced by a *purpose-built accommodation rig* on April 2. The Alexander L. Kielland was then to go to Shell UK on a one-year contract as a drill rig on the south east Auk oilfield.

BP is currently converting the "Drillmaster" and semi-submersible drilling rig into an *accommodation module* for use on its Buchan Field, due to start production in the summer.

OVERSEAS NEWS

Interest rates force German bank to wind up

BY KEVIN DONE IN FRANKFURT

Dr. Heinz Sippel

RISING MONEY market interest rates and the resulting squeeze on banks' interest margins have gained their first victim in West German banking.

Two leading banks, Hessische *Landesbank Girozentrale* and Bank für Gemeinschaft have *decided virtually* to wind up the banking operations of their joint subsidiary, the Investitions und Handels-Bank (IHB).

Dr. Heinz Sippel, executive chairman of the Hessische Landesbank (Helaba), stressed yesterday that the bank had not been close to collapse. The costs of winding down the business of the bank would be fully met from open and hidden reserves and all liabilities would be fulfilled.

The assurance applied *equally to IHB's* London branch.

*IHB's two dominant share*holders—Helaba has a 74.1 per *cent interest and BfG has 25.1* per cent—had decided that in *the foreseeable future*, the bank had little prospect of *showing an acceptable return*. The shareholders were acting now to avoid having to squander its reserves in the future, he said.

Dr. Sippel did not expect any bank bankruptcies in West Germany because of the high money-market interest rates, but some smaller banks that were largely or totally dependent on the markets for refinancing could well need help from their larger shareholders.

Talks with foreign banks had failed to find a willing buyer for the IHB bank.

The "drastic reduction" in IHB's banking activities over the next six months is likely to reduce it to little more than an *investment fund management* company. It closes one of the *most chequered chapters in* recent German banking history.

IHB's involvement in risk-laden companies during the *early 1970s eventually* led to it being completely restructured in 1976. Among other measures, its major shareholder, Hessische Landesbank, had to meet DM 750m (£182m) in losses by its subsidiary.

Since 1972, the IHB has paid no dividend but following the re-structuring in early 1976 it has managed to avoid losses and in 1977 and 1978 was at least able to start slowly rebuilding its reserves.

Last year it had a positive operating profit, Dr. Sippel said, but had only been helped into the black by its participation *interests. It made a small loss* on its lending business.

The IHB had total reported assets at the end of 1979 of just under *DM 2.8bn. Redund*ancy plans are still to be nego*tiated for the workforce of some* 230.

Some 0.8 per cent of the bank's equity is still in the hands of private shareholders and they are to be offered DM 75 per share to sell out their interests.

Herrische Landesbank's interests in IHB were responsible in the early 1970s, together with some disastrous involvement in property, for causing one of the most notable scandals in recent *German banking history*. The state of Hesse and the local *savings banks, the Landesbank's* shareholders, had to meet some *DM 2bn in losses*.

Dr. Sippel, the present chief executive, was brought *in together* with a new management team to put the bank back on its feet. He said yesterday that Helaba had made further progress last year in consolidating its recovery.

Russia 'neglecting oil exploration'

BY DAVID SATTER IN MOSCOW

A *SOVIET planning* official said oil exploration was being neglected in the Soviet Union, and that the country would need to make major new discoveries in the next two years to meet production targets in the 1980s.

Mr. V. Filanovsky, a department head in Gosplan, the Soviet planning agency, said in an article in the monthly Planovoye Khozyaistvo (Planned Economy), that exploration had fallen behind *because of the drive to maxi*mise output from known sources.

His pessimistic forecast drew similar conclusions to those of Mr. Alexander Krylov, A Soviet oil specialist, who wrote earlier this year that wasteful drilling practices were leading to an unjustified lowering of the efficiency of oil output, and that Soviet oil production, as a result, could decline within the next few years.

The U.S. central intelligence agency has predicted that Soviet oil production, the largest in the world, will peak in the *1980s and start to decline*, but Soviet officials in the past have always rejected these projections as "wishful thinking." The statements by Mr. Filanovsky and Mr. Krylov, therefore, have been treated with special

Mr Filanovsky warned that there were dangers from the neglect of oil exploration which, he said, would make it much *more difficult to sustain the high* rate of growth in oil output that *was typical in the past*.

He said the oil boom in Western Siberia, which produces half of the Soviet Union's oil and 37 per cent of its natural gas, began in the 1960s on the basis of 20 giant oil fields, but Soviet oil men now had to rely increasingly on exploitation of a large number of smaller, more remote fields.

Exploration, however, was lagging far behind schedule, and last year test drillings added up to only 763,000 metres, instead of the planned 1.086m metres.

McBride returns for talks in Tehran

BY SIMON HENDERSON IN TEHRAN

MR. SEAN McBRIDE, the former Irish Foreign Minister and veteran diplomat, has returned to Tehran at the invitation of President Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr in what is believed to be an attempt to start a new initiative to release the U.S. embassy hostages.

Mr. McBride, who was in Tehran last November soon after the embassy takeover and again in December, is the author of a plan for an international commission to examine *alleged crimes by the U.S. in* Iran during the Shah's regime.

The plan previously came to nothing, because Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary General, put forward another scheme for a special commission to examine Iran's grievances against the Shah.

The commission left Iran earlier this month after Ayatollah Khomenini had set impossible conditions for a meeting with the hostages.

Whether Mr. McBride's plan can be revived is uncertain. His contacts in Iran are President Bandi-Sadr and Mr. Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the Foreign Minister, who are thought to *be in a minority* on the ruling Revolutionary Council in wanting the hostages released before the Shah is returned to Iran.

Ayatollah Khomeini has said that the future Parliament should decide the issue. But, after one round of elections, the second has been postponed to allow for investigations into alleged "*rigging*."

Mr. McBride is expected to stay in Tehran only a few days. Apart from the President and the Foreign Minister, it is not known who he is likely to meet. He was unwilling yesterday *to reveal details of his* visit.

AP adds: A leading Iranian clergyman told a *Moslem prayer* service yesterday that the *American* hostages will "*certainly*" be tried.

"We will certainly try the hostages *in order to ensure* the extradition of the Shah," Hojatoleslam Ali Khamenei, a noted hard-liner, said in his weekly sermon at the Tehran University mosque.

There have been conflicting *statements in Tehran about* the question of a trial since the deposed Shah arrived *in Cairo* on Monday from his exile in Panama.

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مكتبة من الاكمل

OVERSEAS NEWS

Scandal rocks the pedestals of Italy's soccer stars

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

THE poetically-named Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) prison *in* central Rome is pretty much the smart place to be in Italy, these days.

For the last three weeks its population has included much of the cream of the country's banking community, charged in connection with the Italcasse financial scandal. But since last Sunday afternoon they have been joined by figures even better known to the Italian public: eleven of the top football league stars, Italy's so-called "golden children," as well as the president of AC Milan, *the defending* first division champions.

This year a series of scandals have moved across the national stage with bewildering speed, but there is no doubt which has commanded the most intense interest for the man in the street — that concerning an illegal soccer betting ring, where gamblers allegedly covered their risks by bribing certain players to "throw" matches.

Football is not just the country's most popular sport. It is a national institution, and one which hitherto has generally worked. Arguably it is the most potent unifier of a disparate people, and nowhere is Italian patriotism *more* visible than where the national soccer team is concerned. The same goes, however, for Italian melodrama.

For days before each league game, every whim and every utterance of the heroes of Sunday afternoon is lovingly chronicled. Football induces an even more florid and baroque style of writing than usual in Italian journalism. The phenomenon is at its height in the Monday morning press during the season, when match reports can cover up to eight *full pages.*

Last Monday, the figure rose to ten, with the extra sensation of the arrests. Even the Vatican's official newspaper, the Osservatore Romano, weighed in, remarking that "any revolt by an athlete against *ethical* conduct" was of a particularly *serious nature.*

Columnists who are never slow to spot potential calamity have had endless opportunity to predict that the final nail has been driven in the coffin of crisis-torn Italy. Even those few hours on Sunday afternoon when most of the male population *seems to be escaping nagging* wixes and screaming children to glue themselves to a transistor radio, may prove to be *nothing but a fraud.* This is the collapse of the country portrayed.

There is a certain amount of circumstantial evidence to support this belief. Italian justice is not famed for its speed. Terrorist cases—even the murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro—drag on for years without conclusion. But in the football bribes case, the investigators have said they aim to clear the matter up, ready for formal trial, by the middle of April. Some sores, evidently, are too important to be allowed to fester.

But there are wider reasons for speed. Just as the need for Italy to carry out its EEC responsibilities has helped propel the politicians towards a rapid solution of the government impasse, so the prospect of the European Nations soccer championship, *due to be held here* in the second *half* of June, has almost certainly increased the pressure to clear the Italian footballing air, and quickly.

Nothing, though, is likely to eclipse the spectacle which has been offered over the past four weeks. Rumours of widespread *bribery, and* the *possible* fixing of certain league matches, had been rife for months. But on

Sig. Gino Menicucci (centre), an Italian Soccer referee, accompanied by his lawyer, Sig. Luigi di Maio (left) enters Rome's Justice Ministry for questioning concerning the scandal.

March 3, two Romans, Sig. Massimo Cruciani, a wholesale greengrocer, and Sig. Alvari Trica, *a restaurant owner, went* to the magistrates.

The two claimed to have bet hundreds of thousands of pounds with illicit bookmakers on the outcome of certain matches. They had tried to rig results by offering payments of up to L20m (£10,400) to certain *players to lose matches. The* players, they alleged, took the money but then failed to deliver their part of the bargain. Proclaiming themselves ruined men, Messrs. *Cruciani and Trinca* went to the magistrates to spill the beans, and ended up under arrest themselves.

After that the footballers' pedestal was rocking. It toppled with the final whistle of the league matches last Sunday, a day that will be known *forever as "La Domenica delle* Manette," or "Handcuff Sunday." Eleven players walked off to the dressing rooms on six grounds to be greeted by agents of the *Guardia di Finanza* in a co-ordinated swoop worthy of a terrorist round-up. On Italian TV screens that night was a succession of weeping stars seated tightly between stern-faced policemen, being swept away to Rome and the Regina Coeli in Alfa Romeo saloons.

They include Sig. Felice Colombo, president of AC Milan, and 13 players, including the veteran international goalkeeper Enrico Albertosi, of AC Milan, and Bruno Giordano, star centre-forward of the Lazio team from *Rome, another international.* On Thursday the Italian Football Association suspended Sig. Colombo and 14 players, pending the findings of the magistrates' inquiries.

This week the entrance to Regina Coeli has been like a first night theatre foyer. The famous have jostled their way through flashlights and crowds to be interrogated. International centre-forward Paolo Rossi, at £3m, the world's most expensive footballer, currently playing for Perugia, one of the teams implicated, had a hero's welcome, amid swooning girls and autograph hunters.

Then there was his predecessor as Italian football's ultimate hero, Gianni Rivera, for 20 years a player and now vice president of AC Milan, fending off questions with more aplomb than a prime minister. Other weird figures have flitted across the stage, like the wordly cleric Antonio Lisandrini, "Father Confessor" of the Lazio team, and friend of the politically powerful.

Those arrested could face trial for serious fraud, and prison sentences of several years — especially if it transpires that matches which were fixed appeared on the ordinary Italian football pools, with a weekly turnover of over £3m. So far all wrongdoing is officially denied, but nothing leaks more in a leak-riddled country than the supposedly secret hearings of investigating magistrates.

If these rumours are to be believed, then the most *serious threat, apart from the* disqualification and possible penal punishment of certain players, is to AC Milan itself, the Italian equivalent of Manchester United or Arsenal, and 11 times Italian league champions. According to every press report here, Milan could *face compulsory relegation to* the second division, for the first time in its 80-year history.

Behind the glittering facade of Italian football are a host of problems. Italian clubs are almost without exception heavily in the red. By mid-1979 the total debts of the 36 clubs in the top two divisions was put at L150bn (£79m). Transfer fees are astronomic already, and are likely to become even more so, now that first division clubs will probably be again permitted to buy one top foreign player apiece.

But there are suggestions now that even that step may be postponed by the new scandal. One cruel joke has it that the only foreigner of use to AC Milan right now would be Perry Mason. In the meantime, though, the show must go on. The Italian Football Association has decreed that the 1979/80 championship, with just six matches outstanding, must be played out. In the end the faith of the "Tifosi" (fans) will probably remain just about intact.

The shattered manager of Lazio, four of whose players were last week in Regina Coeli, was presented on Monday with two huge bouquets of *flowers by the faithful.*

But, as they say in Italy these days, don't bet on it.

Netherlands to keep supplying gas despite prices dispute

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR IN AMSTERDAM

THE NETHERLANDS has every intention of delivering contracted volumes of gas to its foreign customers, according to a senior Economics Ministry energy expert and officials of the gas-distribution company, Gasunie.

Steps are being taken, however, to instal equipment which would allow the Dutch to shut off supplies if foreign customers do not agree to higher prices.

"We want to keep to contracts as far as volumes are concerned, but not as far as prices which are unfair," Mr. A. van Rhijn, Deputy Director of energy policy at the Economics Ministry, said here.

Dutch moves to allow a shut-down of supplies, which were revealed by the Economics Minister, Mr. Gijs van Aardenne, in Parliament earlier this month, are a logical part of the negotiating process, Mr. van Rhijn said. There was no point in Holland saying it would cut off supplies as the last resort, if it did not have the technical capacity to do so.

Mr. van Aardenne's announcement to Parliament that funds had been set aside to allow the Netherlands to turn off the gas tap if necessary provoked disquiet among foreign customers.

The view that the Netherlands, which supplies 40 per cent of Western Europe's gas, would not act irresponsibly over its contracts with West Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland, was echoed by officials of Gasunie.

The Dutch are currently trying to bring gas export prices into line with the world oil price. Existing contracts are indexed to oil, but adjustments are made with a delay of up to nine months, and they do not cover the full rise in oil prices.

Turning to the international oil market, Mr. van Rhijn said that the most worrying element was the growth in government-to-government deals. Each government was protecting its own national interests, with little thought for others, he warned.

"We really ought to be thinking whether this is the right thing to do. We are wrecking the flexibility of the oil system, and this might lead to major problems in the future," he said.

Mr. van Rhijn conceded, however, that the Netherlands was keeping a close watch on developments and would consider accepting similar deals, if it faced exclusion from the market altogether.

Sadat ready for a Washington summit on Palestine

BY RODGER MATTHEWS IN CAIRO

PRESIDENT Anwar Sadat of Egypt said yesterday that he was ready for a tripartite summit with President Carter and Mr. Menahem Begin, Israel's Prime Minister, in Washington next month.

President Carter has invited the Egyptian and Israeli leaders to separate talks in an effort to make some progress in Palestinian autonomy by the target date of May 26.

After meeting Mr. Sol Linowitz, the U.S. Middle East negotiator, President Sadat declared that he had no objection to a summit.

"I think that after we have both met with Mr. Carter there may be a need for it," he said.

Mr. Sadat is to meet President Carter on April 8 and 9 and Mr Begin is likely to arrive in Washington soon afterwards.

Mr. Sadat is expected to stay in the U.S. to fulfil other commitments while the Carter-Begin talks are held. Should there be some significant change in the Israeli negotiating stance then a repeat of the Camp David process—which laid the basis for the *peace treaty—could be on the* cards.

However, the gulf separating the two sides on setting up an autonomous Palestinian authority on the West Bank and Gaza Strip remains substantial. This week's negotiating session in Alexandria again failed to produce substantive progress.

Mr. Sadat said yesterday: "Let's hope that things look brighter after the Washington meeting."

Reuter adds from New Delhi: Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Mr. Yasser Arafat arrived in India yesterday on his first visit since the Indian Government gave full diplomatic status to the PLO mission

Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi and External Affairs Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, were at the airport to meet Mr. Arafat.

Palestinian students shouted, "Welcome, welcome, Arafat," *and the PLO leader told reporters:* "The traditions between my people and the Arab nations and India are very old. We are one civilisation with one present and one future."

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Gaullists clash over presidential candidate

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

THE Gaullist Rassemblement pour la Republique (RPR) party has moved a step nearer to presenting its challenge to M. Valery Giscard d'Estaing in next year's French presidential election, but at the cost of a public showdown involving the number two figure in the *party, M. Michel Debré*

M. Debré stormed out of a conference of Gaullist MPs in the Riviera resort of Saint-Raphael, in protest at what he called a trap set by the party leadership.

His typically angry outburst followed a superficially innocent statement by M. Claude Labbé, who heads the RPR group in the National Assembly, to the effect that M. Jacques Chirac, the party leader, was "the best candidate for France."

The Gaullists have not yet named their candidate, although both M. Chirac and M. Debré have indicated they would be willing to stand.

The fact that M. Labbé's position was already set in type in a magazine interview suggests that his statement, dismissed by M. Debré as "a *personal matter,"* was not unpremeditated.

M. Debré, one of the main architects of the constitution of the Fifth Republic and Prime Minister under General de Gaulle in 1959-62, is the chief representative of the Gaullist tradition. M. Chirac, who has *headed* the Gaullists since the RPR party was formed in 1976, represents a younger generation of "neo-Gaullists."

M. Debré's move appears so far to be a lone one. Members of the party, who have gone to some efforts to repair a facade of unity for M. Chirac, have in*sisted that they do not regard* the split as heralding an internal crisis.

M. Labbé repeated yesterday that he thought it was obvious that M. Chirac would be the party's candidate next year. M. Debré has indicated he has still not decided whether to stand.

The prospect of M. Debré either standing independently or withdrawing his support from M. Chirac's candidacy would further strengthen the position of President Giscard, who can only gain from the current divisions of other parties, be they Gaullist or Socialist.

Israel to keep freeze on credit

By L. Daniel in Tel Aviv

THE credit *freeze* imposed on Israel's commercial banks last November is to continue for another three months, if a proposal to this effect by the Bank of Israel (the Central Bank) is approved by the "Economic Cabinet."

This is a group of five lead*ing ministers*

The credit freeze is in nominal terms, but in real terms represents a cutback, because of inflation. Nevertheless, the banks have a surplus of funds as demand for credit has dropped sharply since last November, because *of the uncertainties facing* the business community.

Whereas the Treasury predicts a further slow-down, at least temporarily, while enterprises shift to export production, the Central Bank expects the overheating of the economy to re-assert itself *within* a matter of months, partly because of the massive resort to the printing presses in recent months, wage increases granted under previous agreements, and a relative surplus of liquid cash on the part of some firms which have cut their imports.

China opens talks with IMF

BY TONY WALKER IN PEKING

CHINA HAS begun discussions with officials of the International Monetary Fund about possible re-entry into the organisation.

An IMF delegation led by its Asian director, Mr. Tun Thin, a Burmese national, arrived in Peking this week at the invitation of the Bank of China for what are described as "exploratory" discussions.

According to the Bank of China, the talks will last about a week. China has not yet formally applied to rejoin either the IMF or the World Bank.

China was a charter member at the foundation of the IMF in 1945, but the mainland's membership was frozen after Mao Tse-tung came to power in 1948.

The most difficult question to resolve before China can regain entry to the IMF is the position of Taiwan, which holds the China seat, but did not get the same quota as was originally set for China. China has complained on several occasions about Taiwan's membership. The first such complaint was lodged in 1973.

The talks this week are expected to focus on *conditions* for re-entry such as the requirement that member-countries provide a frank account of their *economic position,* including trading performance, international borrowings, and details about internal economic conditions.

Diplomats in Peking do not expect China to have any difficulty meeting these requirements. Discussions this week are also expected to touch on the size of China's contribution to the Fund. But it is considered unlikely that the difficult question of Taiwan will be dealt with during preliminary talks.

The IMF talks will be followed next month by the visit of a World Bank delegation. The Chinese are known to be anxious to gain access to development assistance loans provided by the bank and affiliated institutions.

There is no indication what *China's drawing rights from the* IMF would be, but Washington reports have noted that Taiwan has special drawing rights of more than $700m.

Press pours into Peking

BY OUR PEKING CORRESPONDENT

THE American publication Business Week plane to copublish with the Chinese a magazine about business developments in China.

Representatives of Business Week visited *Peking this week* for discussions with Chinese partners—the China Business Management Association and the China National Publications Import Corporation.

Growing American media interest in China is reflected *in* the number of U.S. news organisations opening offices in Peking.

Twelve American newsmen have been accredited to China so far and another three, representing the news magazines Time, Newsweek and U.S. News and World Report, will arrive soon.

American television networks are also anxious to base correspondents in Peking, but the Chinese say they cannot accommodate the flood of people this would involve as housing and basic services such as Telex facilities are in extremely *short* supply.

Ministers eager to rush benefits Bill through Commons

BY ELINOR GOODMAN

THE GOVERNMENT will try to rush the controversial Social Security Bill through Parliament by the summer.

Yesterday it published the legislation necessary to implement the changes announced in the Budget — including the £12-a-week cut in State aid to strikers' families.

The Bill will also give the Government the power to cut the real value of short-term social security benefits and to abolish earnings-related unemployment benefit by 1982.

It will be bitterly opposed by both Labour and the unions on the grounds that it represents a direct attack on the right to strike and on the poor.

But Ministers are prepared to cut short the Committee Stage by introducing a guillotine, if necessary, to ensure the Bill is on the statute hook this session.

The Government will have the strong support of Conservative Party members for its proposal to pressurise unions into paying strike pay.

But it is possible that some Tory MPs, who believe the Government has not increased child benefit enough, may use the Bill to make their protest felt.

Originally the Government talked of making unions bear part of the cost of strikes by "deeming" strikers to be in receipt of union funds for the purpose of calculating their entitlement to supplementary benefit — even if they were getting nothing.

This was found to be impractical, however, and "deeming" is now considered a dirty word in government circles.

Instead, any worker going on strike, whether official or unofficial, will have £12 docked from their entitlement to supplementary benefit. Any money, up to £12, which they do get from their union, will be disregarded for the purpose of calculating supplementary benefit entitlement.

At the same time, the rules will be changed so that tax refunds, which strikers receive automatically because of the fall in their earnings, will be taken into account in full instead of up to £4 being disregarded as at present.

Yesterday in one of a chorus of ministerial speeches aimed at putting the Budget in the context of the Government's long-term strategy, Mr. William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, said it must be right to limit State funds given to strikers who at the moment could be "wholly supported by the taxpayer against whom their action is directed."

In all their speeches Ministers stressed the way the Government had succeeded in protecting the poor and encouraging small business despite the financial constraints on the Chancellor.

Government defends cuts in overseas aid

BY IVOR OWEN

CUTS IN THE Government's overseas aid programme, which will fall from £794m in 1979-80 to £680m in 1982-83, were defended in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr. Cecil Parkinson, Minister of State for Trade.

"The country is not being selfish and the Government is not being selfish in seeking to put our own economy on a sounder footing," he said.

Despite the 14 per cent cut in the next three years, Britain's aid programme would remain "very substantial" at nearly £700m. a year.

Mr. Parkinson hit back at Opposition attacks on the cuts by saying the mismanagement of the economy by the last Labour Government, which resulted in Britain becoming in 1976 the biggest creditor in the history of the International Monetary Fund, was "one of the most shameful incidents" in recent years.

Huge slices of the IMF's scarce resources had been pre-empted to prop up a standard of living for the British people which they had not earned. It was far better to seek to put the British economy on a sound basis and make the nation a contributor to the IMF and not a dependant, he said.

Mr. Parkinson offered little prospect of early progress towards the massive transfer of financial resources to the developing countries advocated earlier this year by the Brandt Commission, an international group headed by former West German Chancellor, Mr. Willy Brandt.

Challenged by Mr. Russell Johnston (Liberal, Inverness) he admitted that the Government had not reviewed the decisions on the size of the aid programme in the light of the report's recommendations.

"It may be a pity that we did not have the Brandt report earlier, but I do not believe that at the time it came out, it was time to review this programme," he said.

Mr. Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister who served on the Brandt Commission, listened to the debate but did not speak.

Tory councillors' leader attacks housing savings

BY ROBIN PAULEY

THE GOVERNMENT'S plans for big cuts in housing spending were attacked yesterday by the Tory group leader of the Association of District Councils.

Mr. John Morgan, chairman of the Tory controlled association's housing committee, said there had been no prior consultation with the association, about the impact of the cuts. The association represents 333 non-metropolitan district councils in England and Wales, all of which are housing authorities.

"While accepting there is some scope for cutting subsidies I am concerned about the scale of reductions from £4.7bn in 1980-81 to £2.79bn in 1983-84. We shall be asking for consultations in the Housing Consultative Council," he said.

The cuts raised important issues, including the future of rent levels; the future of council house building, especially sheltered housing for the elderly; and the ability of housing authorities to fulfil their statutory duties to rehouse people under the Homeless Persons Act.

It also raised doubts about the money needed to repair faults in new town and other system-built council housing, and the grants needed to maintain and improve the housing stock.

"I am very worried about the implications," said Mr. Morgan, a Test Valley, Hampshire, councillor.

● Peterborough's housing committee has voted to defy the Government and spend more than £6m on housing in 1980-81. This is almost double the Government's housing investment programme allocation to Peterborough of nearly £3.2m.

The Labour-controlled council wants to spend the money on new council houses, modernising and maintaining the present stock, and acquiring more land for housing.

A Conservative opposition spokesman on housing said: "The extra money can only come from increases in rents and rates. It is an outstanding example of profligate spending."

The Department of the Environment said a local authority trying to overspend in this way could fall foul of the district auditor who has the power to order repayment or could disqualify councillors from office.

Meanwhile the Government is considering new legislation to control the level of capital spending by local authorities.

Fitzgerald will renew call for confederation

BY STEWART DALBY

DR. GARRET FITZGERALD, the leader of Fine Gael, Ireland's main opposition party, is expected to make a major policy speech on Northern Ireland at his party's annual conference today.

He is likely to emphasise the differences between his party's desire for a confederal solution and Fianna Fail's strategy of reunification with the North.

Fine Gael is the descendant of the pro-Treaty politicians who accepted the partition of Ireland in 1921. Last year the party produced an extensive document on confederation within the context of continued links with Britain.

Fianna Fail, which is the party of Eammon de Valera and other Republicans who opposed the 1921 treaty, wants to reunify Ireland but through non-violent means.

Angry parents reject leaded petrol report

BY SUE CAMERON, CHEMICALS CORRESPONDENT

A UNANIMOUS CALL for industry and the Government to "progressively reduce" air pollution caused by lead in petrol is made in a Department of Health and Social Security working party report released yesterday.

But the report does not say whether this means there should eventually be a total ban on lead in petrol. Nor does it say how quickly action should be taken to reduce the amount of lead escaping into the air from petrol fumes.

The report was attacked as a "cover up" by mothers belonging to the Parents Against Lead group. They paraded in Whitehall carrying placards saying the report was a "whitewash."

Mr. Jeff Rooker, MP for Birmingham Perry Bar and an Opposition spokesman on health, also criticised the "so-called scientific report." He claimed the oil companies would be "very pleased with it" but added that the general public and the Government should not be pleased.

The report says there is "no indication" that petrol is to blame for the relatively high concentrations of lead found in the blood of a small proportion of the population. It says these comparatively high concentrations of lead are much more likely to have been caused by leaded paint, imported cosmetics—notably eye make-up—and medicines containing lead, and tap water in homes where there are lead pipes.

But the report says people who already have comparatively large amounts of lead in their blood should be protected from any further, airborne lead coming from petrol fumes.

"Measures should be taken to keep the annual mean concentration of lead in air to less than 2 microgrammes per cubic foot in places where people are liable to be continuously exposed," it says.

The report calls for action to be taken in three major areas "where there is clear evidence that individual exposure to lead, in certain circumstances, could be high with potential risk to health." They are:

● Lead in paint. A programme should be set up to detect lead in paint which is accessible to young children; the amount of lead allowed in retail paint should be "as low as is technically feasible" and the lead content of industrial paint should be labelled.

● Lead in tap water. Local authorities should be given the "strongest possible support" to reduce lead levels in tap water and in some of the worst hit parts of the country babies and expectant mothers should be supplied with "safe bottled water."

● Lead in cosmetics and hair-care products. Importing should be discouraged and hair-care products should bear warning labels.

Most of the major petrol companies said yesterday that they could not comment on the report because they had not yet had time to study it. But they strenuously denied accusations that they had put pressure on the working party to give leaded petrol a tolerably clean bill of health.

In the U.S., lead-free petrol costs around 5p a gallon more than leaded petrol. It is estimated that about 40 per cent of all motorists use unleaded petrol in the U.S. and it is hoped this proportion will rise to 75 per cent by 1985. A switchover takes time because car designs have to be changed so that vehicles can run on lead-free petrol.

Lead and Health: The Report of a DHSS Working Party on Lead in the Environment; HMSO; £4.50.

Internal air fares to go up by about 12½%

By Michael Donne,
Aerospace Correspondent

FARES ON UK internal air routes will rise an average 12.5 per cent from April 1 because of dearer fuel and other items, such as landing fees and navigation charges.

The Civil Aviation Authority approved the rises after applications by British Airways, British Caledonian, British Midland, Dan-Air, Loganair, Haywards Aviation, Aurigny Air Services and Jersey European Airways.

The single fare on British Airways' London Heathrow-Glasgow/Edinburgh Shuttle will increase from £42 to £47 and that from Heathrow to Belfast from £38 to £43.

British Caledonian's Gatwick-Glasgow/Edinburgh single fare will rise from £42 to £49 and British Midland's Gatwick-Belfast single fare from £36.50 to £38.

Among other increases, British Airways Heathrow-Jersey single fare will go up from £29.40 to £34 and its Heathrow-Manchester single fare from £27 to £33.

The Gatwick-Manchester single fare will rise from £29 to £35 and the Southampton-Guernsey/Jersey rae from £26 to £30.

The airlines say increased charges will cost them more than £100m this year. They have no alternative but to pass them on to passengers.

They also say the latest fare rises cover only those increased charges which were in the pipeline earlier this year. There have been further increases in fuel bills, so it is likely that there will be further applications for fares riese later this year.

Maiden flight for 'commuter' aircraft

By Michael Donne,
Aerospace Correspondent

A NEW AIRCRAFT which is intended to be the UK's contribution to the world's growing market for small, light "commuter" airliners, the Jetstream 31, made its maiden flight from British Aerospace's Prestwick airfield in Scotland.

The aircraft is power by twin turbo-prop engines and is designed to carry up to 19 100 miles.

Carrier for scrap

THE GOVERNMENT has decided to scrap Britain's last remaining aircraft carrier Ark Royal after all, Mr. Keith Speed, Defence Under-Secretary, told the Commons. It would fetch up to £1m as scrap.

Tourism earnings

BRITAIN could earn up to £36m from tourism this year, an increase of £500,000 on last year. Mr Len Lickorish, director of general of the British Tourist Authority, said in London.

Manx population

A POPULATION ceiling of 75,000 for the Isle of Man is recommended in a report to the Tynwald, the island's parliament. The present population is 64,000.

Raine closure

RAINE ENGINEERING announced the closure of its Sheffield steelworks, with the loss of 56 jobs. Foreign imports were blamed for the closure.

High Court releases more 'blacked' steel

BY RAYMOND HUGHES, LAW COURTS CORRESPONDENT

TWO MORE steel companies went to the High Court yesterday in an attempt to free consignments of "blacked" steel.

In an open court hearing James Bridge Steel Stockholders, of Birmingham, was granted an order that Station Yard Storage, of Grimsby, allow Bridge to remove about 2,300 tonnes of steel from premises at South Killingholme, Humberside.

At a private hearing Eurosteel Productions sought similar orders against Humberside Sea and Land Services, Sussex Haulage Company and Crescent Shipping.

Afterwards none of the parties would say whether release orders had been made, or give details about the cases or the amount of steel involved.

It is understood, however, that Eurosteel was granted the orders it sought in at least two of the three cases.

In the Bridge case, Mr. John Jarvis, for Bridge, told Mr. Justice Vinelott that about 3,000 tonnes of steel imported from Germany had arrived at Station Yard Storage's premises on October 27. Bridge had moved about 600 tonnes before the steel strike began on January 1.

Since then Station Yard Storage had refused to release any more steel because it feared industrial action would be taken against it.

Mr. Jarvis read evidence in which Mr. John Klimczak, Bridge's managing director, said the strike had cut the company's 5,000-tonne monthly intake of steel by half.

The company had only 14 days' supplies left and was losing customers. Three of its 80 employees had already been laid off and the jobs of others would be at risk if more steel was not obtained.

The "blacked" steel, worth about £350,000, was exposed in the open and deteriorating rapidly, stated Mr. Klimczak.

Mr. Simon Crookenden, for Station Yard Storage, said the company had been told by the unions that if it allowed the steel to be released it would be "blacked for life" by dock and steel workers.

That would mean the company would have to cease trading, because its lifeblood was handling steel and other goods brought into Immingham Docks, said Mr. Crookenden.

He had no instructions to consent to an order being made against the company but, in view of recent court decisions in similar cases, he could not oppose an order.

Bridge agreed that, instead of being granted a norder that Station Yard Storage should deliver the steel, the order should be that Bridge be allowed into Station Storage Yard's premises to remove the steel, using its own men and equipment.

Two more cases, by Howard E. Perry and Company, the private steel stockholders whose successful court move against British Rial began the current series of applications by steel companies, were listed for hearing yesterday but did not come into court.

Perry wants an order for release of 9,000 tonns of steel by Humberside Sea and Land Services and 397 tons by Trucking Shipping, of Gunness, on the River Trent.

By agreement, both those matters were adjourned until April 25 to allow negotiations to cotninue.

Customs inspectors using secret guide to mark-ups

BY GARETH GRIFFITHS

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE inspectors have been issued with a secret list of figures on retail mark-ups to help them decide whether to investigate commercial Value Added Tax returns.

The list, which was published yesterday in Accountants Weekly, shows a range of average retail mark-ups from 7-10 per cent on cigarettes and tobacco to 100 per cent on clothing and jewellery.

Figures on the Customs list refer to March, 1978. VAT inspectors have strict instructions not to disclose the figures to traders or the VAT Tribunal. A similar list used by the Inland Revenue caused controversy when it was revealed last year. The National Federation of Self Employed claimed inspectors would pick traders for investigation simply because their profits were out of line with the levels contained in the list.

The Customs list was confirmed by the department yesterday. It divides the country into five regions—Scotland, North England, the Midlands, the South and South West, and London and the South East.

Retail mark-ups on furniture in London and the South East are listed as 70 per cent compared with 45 per cent in the Midlands. Cakes and biscuits have a 30 per cent mark-up in Scotland against 10 per cent in the Midlands. Records mark-ups were 40 per cent in London compared with 30 per cent in the rest of the country except the North where the figure was 35 per cent.

Customs officials have also drawn up expected ratios of mark-ups for various sectors. Off licences are rated at 16½ per cent, jewellers at 75 per cent and music and book shops at 40 per cent.

The Customs and Excise said yesterday that inspector are not expected to use the lists in making individual assessments. The Customs figures of expected mark-ups are lower than those issued by the Inland Revenue.

Airport parking improved

THE BRITISH Airports Authority is improving car parking facilities at Gatwick Airport.

In future, drivers leaving vehicles in the long-term car park will be able to park and take the keys away, boarding buses to the terminal.

This system is already used in the long-term car parks at Heathrow, and eliminates the former system of ferry-drivers moving cars around in the owners' absence.

With 7,500 spaces in the long-term car parks, and 3,300 spaces in the multi-storey car parks, the authority says adequate space is available for all types of parking and no advance booking is necessary.

A free bus service will take passengers to and from the terminal. From April 1, charges for the multi-storey car parks will be 25p for the first hour, rising to £2.75 a day. The long-term car parks will cost £1.50 a day or part of a day.

Survey of new cars shows 57% had faults

By David Churchill,
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

NEARLY SIX out of very ten new cars has a fault on delivery and a similar proportion develop a major fault during the warranty period, according to an Office of Fair Trading survey of new cars.

Although the OFT refuses to give details of which manufacturers performed the worst in the survey, it is understood BL cars may have accounted for two thirds of the faulty cars.

It is also understood that Mr. Ray Horrocks, BL Cars managing director, has met senior OFT officials to discuss the results of the survey.

The OFT would not confirm or deny BL's position in the survey nor would it confirm that it had already held talks with BL. Mr. Horrocks was not available for comment.

The survey, which was published yesterday, was carried out with the help of the Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea. Some 10,000 questionnaires were sent out last year to private buyers of new cars and just over 4,000 replies were received.

Although most buyers were satisfied their cars had been delivered in a clean condition, and with the fairness of the warranty, 16 per cent found the car had damage to the bodywork or paintwork on delivery.

A further 41 per cent reported their cars had other faults on delivery—making a total of 57 per cent of new cars with faults.

Some 58 per cent reported their cars developed a major fault within the warranty period.

Mr. Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, said yesterday he could "see no reason for those supplying and servicing motor vehicles to ask the consumer to accept standards lower than are to be found in other sectors."

The OFT believes a more effective voluntary code of practice for the motor trade could help to raise standards. It is seeking to renegotiate the existing code.

Mr. Borrie said that "unless we can demonstrate that self regulation works, legislative controls—particularly in the area of used cars—may well become the only sensible alternative."

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders last night said the low response to the OFT's survey cast doubts on the claimed level of faults but it was willing, it added, to hold further talks with the OFT on strengthening the voluntary code of practice.

Burmah's High Court bid for documents fails

By Raymond Hughes, Law Courts Correspondent

BURMAH OIL has lost its High Court attempt to compel disclosure of Government documents in its pending action over the Bank of England's purchase of Burmah's 21.6 per cent stake in BP at an alleged under-value in 1975.

Mr. Justice Whitford yesterday rejected Burmah's claim that two Department of Energy minutes and two minutes from the Treasury to the Paymaster General were relevant to the action. The Attorney General has opposed the claim on the ground that disclosure of the documents would be contrary to the public interest.

Burmah had argued that, although the Bank had not been represented at meetings recorded by the minutes, there might be references in them to the Bank's views on the deal to be offered to Burmah, which was then facing an economic crisis.

Last November the House of Lords rejected an earlier claim by Burmah for disclosure of other documents. In that case also the Government had said disclosure would not be in the public interest.

It is understood that the company does not intend to appeal against yesterday's decision.

Date set for Iranian bank court actions

By Raymond Hughes,
Law Courts Correspondent

HIGH COURT actions by Bank Markazi, the Iranian central bank, to release Iranian funds in the London branches of five leading American banks will not be heard until November.

The cases, estimated to last between eight and 10 weeks, have been fixed for November 3.

Bank Markazi is claiming the release of $320.9m from the Chase Manhattan Bank; $1.796bn from Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association; $415.6m from Manufacturers Hanover Trust Co.; $332m from Bankers Trust Co.; and $175m from Citibank, N.A.

Shop stewards to discuss Mersey port stoppage

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

SHOP STEWARDS from ports throughout Britain will meet on Tuesday to discuss the stoppage by port workers on Merseyside. But there are no plans to answer the Liverpool dockers' call for a national strike over the handling of steel.

The decision to call a national dockers' delegate conference came yesterday during a three hour meeting of the 21-man docks and waterways committee of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Up to 10,000 port workers including about 6,000 dockers brought the port of Liverpool to a halt a week ago when they wenton strike because of a dispute over handling a steel cargo.

They walked out in sympathy with 100 dockers who had been told by port employers that they would not be paid if they refused to finish loading a Russian ship bound for Bangladesh with dismantled electricity pylons.

The transport union gave official backing to the strikers earlier this week. It claimed that the dockers were obeying union instructions not to load steel for transport out of ports.

Liverpool's port employers and dockers' union officials led by Mr. Jimmy Syme, TGWU docks secretary at Merseyside, resumed talks yesterday aimed at finding a local solution to the dispute.

Mr. Tom Cronin, the union's national docks secretary, said the dockers' representatives did not intend to discuss an all-out docks strike at the Tuesday conference. "But it all depends what comes up at the meeting," he said.

The delegates would also be discussing problems unrelated to steel handling, concerning dockwork in other ports.

Apex leaders defer union merger moves

BY PAULINE CLARK, LABOUR STAFF

LEADERS of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff (Apex) have decided to oppose any move towards a merger with one or more other white-collar union for at least a year.

The decision follows exploratory talks on merger possibilities with six leading white-collar unions in the past six months.

It comes in spite of pressure from some areas of Apex's 153,000-strong membership for an early decision on the union's future.

The six unions were the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, the General and Municipal Workers Union, the Transport and General Workers Union, the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication, and Plumbing Union, the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers, and TASS, the white-collar section of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers.

The results of these exploratory talks will be debated at Apex's annual conference in Scarborough on April 18-21, when a dozen motions on the subject will be submitted by branches.

Mr. Roy Grantham, Apex general secretary, said yesterday the conference would receive a progress report on merger discussions, and three options would be proposed.

These were for creation of a staff/management organisation, a large staff union, or a confederation in which Apex would be part of a staff/management section.

He said he would be recommending a cautious approach to discussions on Apex's future.

He believed the union should wait "not for a matter of months but for an appreciable length of time" before deciding so that it had a clearer picture of the way in which white-collar trade unionism was developing.

The future, he said, would be dictated by the development of technology and of single-status trade unionism where divisions between manual workers and staff workers were eliminated.

Mr. Grantham said there had been insufficient progress in Britain in either area to make a decison yet. "We are nowhere near a move at all."

Jaguar strike over grading forecast

BY ARTHUR SMITH, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR'S ASSEMBLY plant at Brown Lane, Coventry, will be hit by industrial action from April 9 whether or not BL's 85,000 workers stage a total strike.

That was the forecast last night by Mr. Dave Holloway, the Transport and General Workers' Union convener. He said most Jaguar workers would strike over proposed new grading.

Shop stewards at Browns Lane this week gained a majority of only 69 from the 4,000 workers in favour of a strike against BL's decision to impose its pay package.

Stewards felt unable to go ahead with the strike, confronted with such an obviously divided workforce. But procedure was exhausted on new grading yesterday and unions representing most workers gave five days' notice of intended industrial action.

Mr. Holloway said it would be the decision of individuals whether to attend for work after the Easter break. So many workers were being down-graded under the new structure, he was convinced most would strike.

National union leaders are scheduled to meet in Coventry on Wednesday to consider union negotiatiors' call for an all-out strike from April 9.

The first mass meeting of car workers in the Oxford area over BL's decision ended yesterday with a two-to-one majority in favour of a strike.

Two thousand members of the engineering union at Cowley's Austin Morris car assembly plant attended the meeting.

Mr. Doug Hobbs, convenor for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said most members felt BL's package did not offer enough new money, was a step back from the promise of staff status for manual workers and introduced many regressive conditions.

A count among AUEW members on the night shift at the neighbouring Pressed Steel Fisher factory showed a majority of 17 against a strike. Mr. Roy Fraser, their convenor, said 100 were in favour.

Commission will assess cost of safety plans

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE HEALTH and Safety Commission is to improve its ability to calculate financial and technical implications of recommended improvements in safety standards.

In its 1978-79 report published yesterday the commission acknowledged that while well-conceived safety requirements reduced deaths, improvements concerning injuries and occupational diseases could be costly.

The commission's representative nature, and extensive discussion and consultation about its proposals, helped to ensure that its recommendations were realistic, said the report.

"Nevertheless we are taking steps to improve our ability to assess the implications of our proposals both technically and commercially, and intend in future to prepare such assessments where appropriate for inclusion in our consultative documents."

The report stated that 150 fewer people were killed in accidents at work in 1978 than in 1974, the year in which the Health and Safety at Work Act was enacted. The number killed in 1978 was 498 in areas for which the commission is responsible.

The commission said: "Though four years are not enough to be sure that this decline in deaths, from 651 to 498, is a trend, credit for saving lives is due to all the employers and managers, workers and trade unions who have contributed to the increased concern over the hazards of work.

"We are confident that awareness of the importance of health and safety is now greater than ever before, encouraged by the new Act and channelled into a more systematic approach to prevention involving all concerned."

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Rather tame, Sir Geoffrey

LONDON

ONLOOKER

The stock market's reception of Sir Geoffrey Howe's second Budget has not been enthusiastic. Having been sunk in torpor for three weeks before the Budget, the gilt-edged market woke up briefly on *Thursday morning* and marked itself lower. Equities have simply retreated — the FT 30-Share Index has slumped into the low 420s, 12 per cent below its February highs.

Anyone who had expected the Budget to help the financial position of the corporate sector in the short run will have been disappointed. The only hope is that the reduction in the Government's borrowing needs will allow interest rates to fall, and provide relief that way, but this may take some time, and meanwhile the squeeze is still very much on.

It looks as though equities are going to take their lead from gilt-edged, and the dull response of the bond market to the Budget has been partly responsible for the fall in equities. The investing institutions have built up large liquid balances for investment in gilts, but they are decidedly timid about committing their money to the market. At the moment the institutions are waiting for the Government Broker to lower the price of his long tap, while the authorities hope that buying will take the market up through the previous tap levels, which are not too far away. What seems to be lacking, and what the Budget failed to provide, is an impulse to move the market decisively either way.

Close to £67m was wiped off the maret capitalisation of the six major quoted television rental companies on Thursday as the market wrestled with the loss of 100 per cent first year capital allowances on new rental sets.

The reaction was almost certainly overdone. Companies such as Electronic Rentals, Granada, Rediffusion and Thorn EMI would no doubt find it *politically* embarrasing to come out and say that the Chancellor's measures are unlikely to have much impact on their profits, but that is the view City analysts are taking.

What small impact they think there will be is still a couple of years away. Up to the end *of this May rental* companies will continue to claim a full 100 per cent of the cost of new sets against tax in the first year and there is a gradual two-year phasing down to the implementation of the 5 per cent allowance on a reducing basis by mid 1982. In 1980-81 companies will be able to write-off 75 per cent *in the first year* and *in 1981-82* the immediate allowance will be 50 per cent.

It seems probable, judging by the jump in set placements in the early 70s, that the peak in set replacements will come within the next couple of years, before the rental companies drop down to the 25 per cent *allowance*.

Effectively rental companies could be paying tax, on average, about two and half years earlier than they are currently. There will be some impact on cash flow but this could be largely offset by relatively small increases in rental charges on new sets. At the end of the *day, analysts are just* knocking a couple of percentage points off their medium term profit projections.

Limited mileage

After several weeks of anticipation, the news of Europcar's agreed £22m bid for just under half of Godfrey Davis finally came through this week. GD's share quotation was suspended over a month ago when word first leaked of the possible approach from Renault's vehicle rental subsidiary. Europcar claims to be the largest car hire company in Europe, with branches in 57 countries in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

The actual deal is an interesting example of the growing support for "de-merging"—the complex task of splitting up a group into its several components. In this deal, Godfrey *Davis is to be divided* into two companies—a hire company and a trade company—and Europcar will offer a cash payment of 115p per share for the car hire business, equivalent to about £17.4m. At the time of its suspension, GD shares stood at 148p, a price already slightly inflated by bid rumours.

Shareholders will be offered the option of accepting an equivalent amount of guaranteed floating rate loan stock, with interest to be fixed every six months at the London Inter Bank Offered Rate.

The rump of the Godfrey Davis business — its Ford main dealerships, contract hire and *leasing* and *leisure* interests — is to get a special dividend worth £4.6m from the hire company.

Midland Bank Industrial Investments, meanwhile, has agreed to take a minority share of the capital of Europcar's new company, to be called Godfrey Davis-Europcar.

As a condition of the deal, GD must forecast a profit for the hire company of not less than £2.2m pre-tax in the year to March 31. Although not forecast by the group, the full pre-tax earnings (both hire and trade companies) could amount to around £5.2m. A pro-forma split of turnover and profits for last year shows that turnover for the hire and trade companies came to £21.9m and £66.8m respectively. Pre-tax earnings were £1.96m for the hire business and £2.5m for the trade company.

When the GD shares were suspended, the group's market capitalisation was £22.37m; at yesterday's price of 168p, the figure grew to £25.4m.

Even more intriguing is the fact that after subtracting the 115p cash payment for the hire company, the rump of the group *should have a market capitalisa*tion of between £8m and £9m. This equals about one half of the likely net worth of the trade company (which should be almost £18m) and a multiple of just over three times pre-tax earnings. Shareholders must make some allowance for the fact that payment will not be *made for a few months*. Even so, the current price looks rather attractive.

Some 71 per cent of GD shareholders have already irrevocably agreed to the deal. Included among this group is the Rothschild Investment Trust, which has a 27 per cent stake and the Barbinder Trust, a GD *employees' group with more* than 10 per cent.

Oil on water

In the sometimes volatile market for oil company shares, there was no great alarm after the Chancellor announced in his Budget speech that the Petro*leum Revenue Tax (PRT) is to* rise by 10 per cent to 70 per cent. Together with accelerated payment this should boost government revenues by £535m in 1980-81. As far back as 10 days ago there had been some discounting in the sector as the PRT increase had been widely expected.

There were, of course, grunts of disgust from some oil company chairmen when Sir Geoffrey revealed that the Finance Bill 1980 would include the PRT increase, but at the same time others were pleased that this had come instead of a new windfall profits tax.

On Thursday, the day after the Budget, there was a minor shake-out among oil shares. BP was off 14p, LASMO was down 9p and Tricentrol dropped 20p

The main discontent seemed to stem not so much from the PRT rise in itself, but rather because it represented the third change in the timing of payments and in tax rates in the past year. But as the industry awaits the start of the Seventh *Round of North Sea oil block* licensing, the effects of the PRT increase are unlikely to inhibit the financing of the various companies involved.

No go HoJo?

The Imperial Group board should be purple with embar*rassment. At the annual meet*ing this week, retiring chairman Sir John Pile let slip some veiled hints that all was not well with the group's £290m bid for the Howard Johnson U.S. restaurant and hotel chain. The public reaction to what could be a major blow to Imps' corporate strategy was *not all that its planners might* have hoped for. Amid sighs of relief, dealers marked Imps' shares sharply higher in London. Over in New York, the rush to get out of what would be a hopelessly overpriced share in the absence of a bid brought trading in HoJo to a halt on Thursday.

The *hard* nosed arbitrageurs on Wall Street have never really been convinced that Imps would pay what seemed to them to be a ridiculously high price for the U.S. company when it actually came to the crunch. Sir John's statement was enigmatic in the extreme. He announced that although substatnial progress had been made towards obtaining the necessary regulatory approvals, the "Board nevertheless feels that both with respect to that and also certain other aspects of the business, there are questions still to be answered."

He can say that again.

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price Y'day	Change on Week	1980 High	1980 Low	
F.T. Ind. Ord. Index	421.5	— 8.4	478.8	406.9	Selling/no support after Budget
F.T. Gold Mines Index	279.1	—27.3	377.9	265.5	Unsettled bullion markets
Appleyard	54	—12	85	52	Sharply reduced profits
Bowring (C. T.)	136	+10	149	122	U.S. bid by-passes Monopolies Com.
BP	346	— 8	412	328	Increased pet. revenue tax
Camrex	32	— 9	44	32	Nervous selling
Clyde Pet.	386	+36	388	313	North Sea oil find hopes
Cons. Gold Fields	458	—32	533	385	Heavy losses in precious metals
De Beers Defd.	375	—65	553	375	General weakness of sector
Electronic Rentals	97	— 7	121	87	Phased cut in cap. allowances
Grattan Warehouses	64	—14	110	62	Broker's bearish circular
Guthrie	912	+107	912	628	Bid speculation
Legal & General	152	— 9	179	152	Disappointing results
Lidstone	280	+90	280	190	Bid approach at 280p
Lucas Inds.	210	—13	264	205	Profits below expectations
Meyer (Montague L.)	105	— 9	120	73	Bid hopes fade
Reckitt & Colman	166	—14	216	166	Disappointing results
Sainsbury (J.)	288	—14	315	280	Brokers' adverse circulars
Shell Transport	332	—22	410	314	Increased pet. revenue tax
Thorn EMI	290	—22	328	266	Phased cut in cap. allowances

The lesson of Mr. Hunt

NEW YORK

IAN HARGREAVES

THIS WAS one week when the Dow did not even tell a quarter of the story. Looking at the closing figures, one might deduce there had been something of a sell-off—which there was.

But they say nothing of the dramas and tensions that made this one of the most turbulent weeks Wall Street has seen for a long time. In fact, by yesterday, some people were muttering about "fundamental changes in psychology," a phrase frequently used when no other *explanations can be found.*

But if share traders failed to understand what was going on, the reason was that most of the action—for once—was taking place elsewhere, in the commodities markets. The price of precious metals plummeted, dragginga lot of investors down with them, and this quickly had a ripple effect on the stock market.

The connection came most vividly on Thursday afternoon when the price of silver dropped by a third to $10 or so an ounce (it was at $50 only two months ago), and sent panic waves through the stock market. The Dow fell 27 points by mid-afternoon, though in the closing minutes it staged a miraculous recovery and closed only two points down.

The reasons behind these huge swings are worth looking at in some detail because they say a lot about the state of Wall Street at the moment.

Silver had been slipping for some time. But it went into a steep slide in the middle of the week on reports that Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, the wealthy Texas oilman who amassed several million ounces of silver over the past year, was being forced to sell to cover *his* losses.

These rumours gained currency because it was generally believed that Mr. Hunt had bought silver at an average price in the mid-$20s. So when the price dropped below this level it seemed likely that he would sell.

As it turned out, Bache Halsey Stuart Shields, the large brokerage house which handles much of his business (and which he partially owns), confirmed on Thursday afternoon that it had asked the Hunt family to put up an extra $100m but that, for once, it had been unable to. So Bache sold *some of his silver and* stocks instead.

So large does the figure of Mr. Hunt loom over wall street, particularly the commodity markets, that this was enough to provoke a selling scramble which pushed stock prices down to levels they had not seen for over two years. But by the end of *Thursday* afternoon, it became clear that everything was alright, Mr. Hunt had "made arrangements" at which point the bargain-hunters moved in and pulled the market back up again.

The episode provided Wall Street with a couple of salutory lessons. One is the danger of allowing the market to become obsessed by the actions of a single man, however wealthy, and the other is the ever present threat of margin calls.

Mr. Hunt ran into trouble because he speculated with borrowed money rather than his own, a practice known as buying on margin. This is fine so long as prices are going up. But when they go down, investors have to put up more and more money to cover their positions, and precisely what Mr. Hunt was evidently unable to do when his "margin call" went out from his brokers.

However, he was far from being the only person to be caught in this way, in a fast sinking market like this one, margin calls only feed the decline as more investors are compelled to sell to cover their losses. And prices have dropped so far from their February 13 peak of over 900 that margin calls are going out by the thousands every day.

Brokers usually put out margin calls when an investor's equity in his stocks falls below 30 to 40 per cent depending on the quality of the customer.

The customer always has the choice, of course, of sending his broker more money rather than selling stocks and at the moment a lot of them are doing this because there are hopes that the market will shortly turn up again.

However, if the present decline persists, the proportion of investors who sell when called is bound to go up.

But the "bottom line" of this week's upheaval is that the market is at a two-year low, with little to suggest that there will be an immediate improvement. The usual star performers like energy and high technology stocks which have hauled the market up in the past are in the doldrums.

Oil stocks have shed much of their earlier speculative gains, mainly because of the slackness of the world's oil market and the short drop in U.S. petroleum consumption.

This may look very gloomy. But in a broader sense, it is encouraging. It suggests that investors now widely expect the U.S. economy to go into recession, something which many economists (though by no means all), argue should take the pressure off inflation and interest rates.

If this is so, the market may *be near the cyclical bottom.* But those who watch market technicals are getting jumpy as the dollar nears the 750 level. This is thought to be the last big support level before a major decline.

After its last dive in 1978, the market rallied at 742. But on previous occasions it always *plunged through the low 800s* and beyond once it passed through 750.

MONDAY	765.44	—19.71
TUESDAY	767.83	+ 2.39
WEDNESDAY	762.12	— 5.71
THURSDAY	759.98	— 2.14

Lost in the jungle

MINING

KENNETH MARSTON

I HAVE never really believed the old saw about March coming in like a lion and going out like a lamb. And climatic considerations apart, there are still plenty of lions rampaging around the metal and share market jungle.

Gold has dropped below $500 per troy ounce again this week and the silver price has collapsed to under $11 an ounce—only one-fifth of the level obtaining just two months ago—to the accompaniment of reports that Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, the big speculator in silver, was having to sell heavily in order to cover earlier losses in the metal.

Platinum on the free market has fallen further to well under $600 after having been over $1,000 earlier this month, while prices of the major base metals have also lost ground. Inevitably, this has been reflected in share prices and shareholders must still be wondering which way to run.

When speculation runs high markets tend to swing like a pendulum, too far in either direction. Gold, for instance, was clearly getting out of hand when the price was zooming to a high of $850 in January.

I was moved to suggest that holders of gold shares should take at least part of their profits; they would not have got out at the top of the market but at least they will have been sleeping more soundly at night since then.

The metal market pendulum may well swing too far in the backwards direction and while *it is not possible to say* how far this will be, it is likely that when things settle down the pendulum will move more calmly in the region between the recent highs and lows. Meanwhile, it is a time for shareholders to keep heads cool and neither buy nor sell.

The fall in inflated prices of precious metals is no bad thing as far as the producers are concerned. The high prices have depressed the important jewellery demand for their products with the result that European demand for gold in jewellery has been expected to fall by some 40 per cent this year.

In total, jewellery absorbs something like 60 per cent of world gold and platinum supplies and so falling prices could be cushioned by a recovery in demand from the jewellers. At the same time, last year's high earnings of the gold mines were based on an average price of only $300 and if you add on a further $50 to cover the rise

that the mines are still increasing their profits.

Furthermore, relatively low prices in the $400 region are still being used as a basis for the mines' forward planning. This week, for example, the big **Vaal Reefs** gold and uranium producer has announced that it *is considering a major expan*sion, notably in mining the large, but low grade Ventersdorp Contact reef at its property.

Also preparing to mine ore that was previously unpayable is **Western Deep** with its proposed R300m (£169m) expansion into the neighbouring Western Ultra Deep Levels ground. Western Deep's chairman, Mr. Gerald Langton, has said this week that he does not see any problems in reaching a satisfactory agreement between the parties concerned.

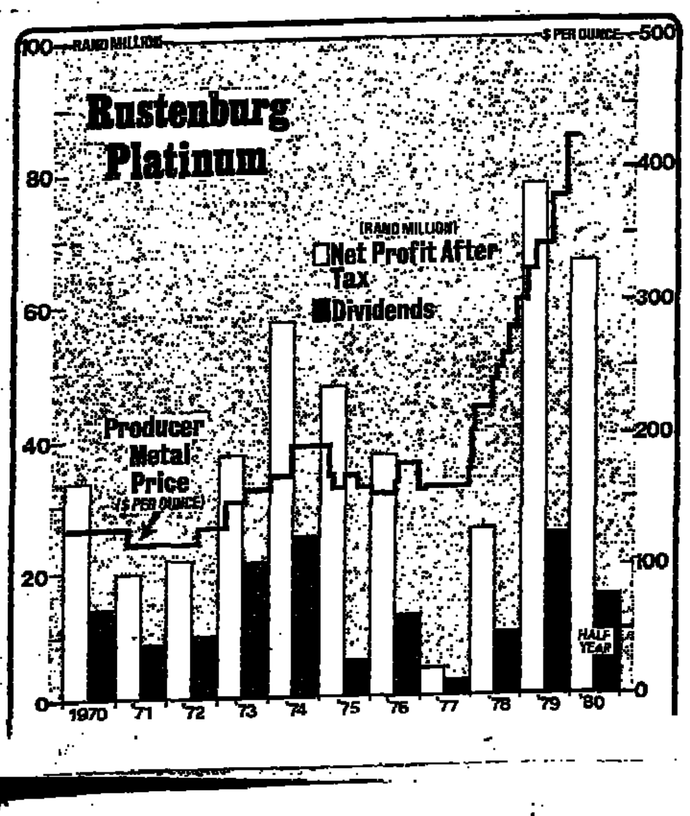
On Wednesday, when Sir Geoffrey Howe was outlining the UK financial strategy for *the coming fiscal year,* Mr. Owen Horwood was giving details of South Africa's strongly expansionary budget. The mining industry there has been disappointed that there has been no easing of its high tax charges and no extension of capital allowances. But the loan levy has been abolished and this could increase the distributable profits of most mines by about 12 to 14 per cent.

The major platinum producers, South Africa's **Rustenburg** *and* **Impala** and Canada's **Inco** continue to sell their metal at a fixed price of $420 per ounce and will thus be pleased to see the fall in the high free market price, *especially* as jewellery sales are based on the latter high level.

Here again, the lower producer price is more than *adequate. In August last year* it was raised by $30 to $380 and subsequently to the present level of $420 in December. During the six months to February 29 last Rustenburg's earnings advanced to R66.9m from R24.4m in the same period of the previous year.

But what has surprised the *sharemarket* this week has been the decision to boost the interim dividend to 12.5 cents (7p) from only 5 cents last time despite the chairman's recent warning of the need to maintain a policy of modest dividends.

Providing the present producer price level is at least maintained earnings should advance afresh in the current half year. But the size of the final dividend declaration will probably be more dependent on the state of the platinum market at that time.



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FINANCE AND THE FAMILY

No bar to legacy

BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

Before a sister-in-law died in 1971, she told my wife that she was leaving her a small legacy, but the executors told her there was no *mention of it in the* will. It now turns out that this statement was false. Is the legacy now time barred?

The right to claim the legacy will not be statute barred where it was withheld by fraud. It was the executors' duty to seek out the legatee and pay her. The legacy can be claimed with interest.

Wife's American domicile

Your paper has indicated that the UK/U.S. Double Taxation Agreement has been approved by the UK Parliament (February 18, 1980). Do you now suggest *my wife writes* to her Tax Inspector to establish her U.S. domicile?

We were married in 1953, she has retained her U.S. citizenship and regularly visits the U.S. where her parents have a house in Texas. She has not remitted any U.S. dividends to this country.

We suggest that your wife write to your tax inspector saying that she wishes formally to *establish that she is entitled* to be treated as domiciled in Texas from April 6, 1976, for all income tax and capital gains tax purposes by *virtue of the* Draft Double Taxation Relief (Taxes on Income) (The United States of America) Order 1980, embodying article 4(4) of the U.S.-UK double taxation convention of December 31, 1975, as amended.

Rateable value and a loft

I believe there is a maximum *proportion of the loft area of* a house which can be floored without affecting the rateable value. Can you please tell me what it is?

There is no maximum area. So long as you do not increase the rateable value by more than £30 the improvement will not qualify for re-rating.

Entitlement to information

By the will of my mother's cousin, who died about nine years ago, the residue of her estate was to be invested with a life interest to her husband. On his death the capital to be divided, half going to my mother.

The solicitor advised my mother of this but has never *informed her of the value of the* estate nor the investments made. Is she entitled to know this, and what would happen if *the money has been poorly* invested and part, or all of it, lost on such investments before the death of the husband?

Your mother is a beneficiary, and, as such, entitled to the *information which you mention.* Poor investment of the fund will not give your mother a claim against the trustees, but negligence on their part might, depending on the precise terms of the will. The court has recently held that a trustee was liable in such circumstances.

An end to a trust

I took out a 20 years endowment policy with life cover in 1963, the annual premiums being by me, in favour of my wife and daughter, written under the Married Womans Property Act 1882 with a bank and myself acting *as joint trustees. How can I* put an end to this trust?

You can only determine the trust if all the beneficiaries actual and potential are of full age and agree to do so. You should consult a solicitor as to doing this. Otherwise applications must be made to the Court.

Inappropriate 'hope value'

We inherited a field which is rented to an institution for sporting purposes at a rental of £520. It was put in for probate at £12,500. The land is zoned as recreational land, but the valuer wants a probate figure of £50,000 because of what he calls "hope value." Do you not agree that the land *should be assessed as* recreation land, as at the time of death?

We agree that the property should be valued as at the date of death. If there is an existing tenancy we think that it is inappropriate to add on to the existing use value a sum for the "hope value."

No legal responsibility can be accepted by the Financial Times for the answers given in these columns. All inquiries will be answered by post as soon as possible.

Damage by tree root

If the roots of one of our trees was to cause a blockage in *a neighbour's drain, which* had cracked, should we be held responsible and if so, would a comprehensive house and contents policy cover damage of this sort?

In the case which you postulate, where the cause of damage can be clearly traced to a root of a particular tree, the owner of the tree would be liable in nuisance and, probably, trespass. Some comprehensive policies *would cover such* risks, but it would be necessary to examine the policy in question.

Paper losses

I have a substantial paper loss on gas 3 per cent 1990/1995, bought within the last 12 months. Is there any point in "bed and breakfasting" them?

If you wish to reinvest in the same stock, you must allow at least a calendar month *to elapse* between the (bed) sale and the (breakfast) repurchase. The reason for this is to be found in section 70 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979, subject to what may appear in the Finance (No. 2) Bill next month.

If the acquisition were not made through The Stock Exchange, the interval between sale and reacquisition would have to be at least six calendar months.

Accepting a device

I am leaving my house to my nephew, with a life interest to my wife. *Would he thus* become automatically liable for the rates, gas, electricity, etc, should my wife be unable or *unwilling to pay?* Could my nephew refuse the bequest with the responsibilities attached? There are facts recorded in my will which it would be embarassing if my nephew knew of in my lifetime. What in such circumstances would constitute an act of acceptance?

Your wife would probably be taken to be responsible for all outgoings, and no responsibility *would fall on your nephew* during her occupancy. However it might be wise to execute a codicil spelling out what the responsibilities are to be. Your nephew can refuse the devise, in which case the property would fall into residue. He cannot be held to taking the property unless he both knows of the full terms of the gift and then accepts it or enters on the property. You may wish to consider leaving the property direct to your wife.

Grace and favour tax remission

I refer to your reply under Grace and Favour *tax* remission (March 1). It prompts me to ask you what therefore is the significance of Extra Statutory Concession dated November 7, 1979, which says—"Where a tax payer's gross income is less than £4,000 no attempt will be made to recover the arrears. Where it is £4,000-£6,000, only ¼ of the arrears will be demanded, £6,000-£8,000 ½ arrears, £8,000-£10,000 ¾ arrears, above £10,000 whole arrears. Level of investment income now ignored.

"One important condition is that the arrears arose because of a departmental error which involved the failure to make proper and timely use about the taxpayer's income and personal circumstances supplied by the taxpayer so that he could reasonably believe his affairs were in order"? The words "no attempt will be made" do not appear to signify a "grace and favour" attitude.

By the phrase "purely on a grace-and-favour basis" we meant "wholly dependent upon executive action and without any right of recourse to the Courts to compel the remission." The reader asked whether remission is compulsory or discretionary, but neither word seemed appropriate to describe an extra-statutory practice subject to alteration by unchallengeable ministerial decision; the source of the concession outlined in your inquiry is a *written parliamentary answer by* the Minister of State, Treasury, on November 7. You should be able to obtain a copy by writing to the Inland Revenue Public *Enquiry Room, Somerset House,* Strand, London, WC2R 1LB, asking for a copy of the Press release of November 7 entitled "Remission of tax in cases of official error." The Minister's answer indicated that the basis of the treatment of tax arrears which are attributable to "departmental mistake" is under review, doubtless in the light of criticism by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman). There is mounting criticism of the extension of extra-statutory concessions and practices by the Inland Revenue, from within the House of Commons and from the Bench *(as well as in legal and* accountancy journals etc.), so we may well see some legislative action before long.

Servitudes on property

In my neighbour's garden, close to the wall which separates our properties (in Ayrshire) there are three trees, about 20 feet high. They deprive my property of light and also appear to be responsible for some cracks which have appeared in the wall. My neighbour has *refused to take* any action about them. What, please, is the legal position?

In Scotland every property is *burdened with certain rights* known as servitude in favour of adjoining property which requires the proprietor of the *servient property to refrain* from certain acts impinging upon the enjoyment and use of his neighbours. One of these is a requirement to refrain from obscuring the prospect therefrom or from shutting out natural daylight. That concept is known as *Altius non tollendi which in effect precludes the* adjoining proprietors building or otherwise obstructing the ingress of light. Trees which *reach the proportions you des*cribe may cause a breach of that servitude obligation.

The second remedy lies in the law of nuisance. If the tree is causing physical damage to the property which you suggest then it would be categorised in law as a nuisance and you could demand its removal or the removal of its offending parts by way of an action of Interdict.

How a policyholder takes 'all reasonable steps'

INSURANCE

JOHN PHILIP

I HAVE just had three 60 foot *high trees cut down.* However healthy they were, they were too close to my house for two reasons.

Firstly, they could have fallen and damaged the house, and, secondly, normal turning and diggink of flower beds had disclosed sizeable roots within a few feet of the house.

At the time I gave instructions for the work to be done, I had not looked at my home buildings insurance policy — and on the day the trees were felled I had a short discussion with my neighbour, who had, and still *has,* trees close to *his* house.

"You've got a buildings policy which covers storm damage, accidental fall of trees and branches, and *subsidence. Why* not save your money, and if something goes wrong, claim on your policy?"

So we got out our *policies* and checked our cover — which was, with the slight variations of wording that two different *insurers employ, for all practi*cal purposes identical. In each policy we had a "reasonable care" condition, which in my case ruled "the pjolicyholder shall take all due and proper precautions for the safety of the insured property:" my neighbour's condition ruled that be "must take all reasonable steps to prevent los or damage . . ." While the intention of each condition was clearly similar the precise impact of the words used could be interpreted as being more severe in my case, more lenint in my neighbour's, *because in the final analysis the* words "all due and proper precautions" might be held by lawyers to impose a heavier duty *than the words* "all reasonable steps."

In my opinion my insurers would have been in a strong *position to reject any claim* I might have made in the future for three damage to my home. The trees were only 30 feet *away from my house, and I had* visible evidence of the proximity of the roots. But my neighbour is still not convinced —*he still reckons he can take* his ch$ance with his insurance claim should misfortune strike. Perhaps even more compelling *to his mind is the fact that at* this time he has not the money readily available to pay for the felling of half a dozen trees.

So *we* cfiontinue to differ. In principle, such phrases as "all due and proper precautions," "all reasonable steps," must be *viewed objectively.* The action required is that which would be taken by that archetypal man of legal common sense, "*the man on the Clapham* Omnibus."

The fact that insurers do not often seek to apply reasonable care conditions against private policyholders, whether under home, motor or other personal policies, does not mean that reasonable care conditions can be ignored with impunity.

What is reasonable, what is due and proper, is not an absolute. It is essentially relative to all the circumstances of the policyholder's situation and the risk that insurers are underwriting. *Thus it may be per*fectly reasonable to leave one's front door, not just unlocked, but even wide open, while one *is out shopping, in many* a small village, but it is clearly, utterly unreasonable to do this if one has a flat in the known high crime areas of north west London.

Equally it may be perfectly reasonable to leave one's open sports car parked outside the village pub on a Sunday morning, but utterly stupid to leave it for even a few minutes in an inner London side street.

The property *insurance* policies, in motor insurance policies, the reasonable care condition is not included just to fill the *space available.* It is there for a purpose—to ensure that insurers do not have to meet the claim caused by the policyholder being thoroughly careless for the safety of his property.

On the other hand, the condition is not there to defeat the legitimate claim put forward as the result of loss caused by a moment's inadvertence.

Nor, in motor policies and liability policies, does such a condition avail insurers *to re*fuse indemnity to the policyholder or other person protected, in respect of negligent *acts or omissions.* A moment's thought shows that this would defeat the purpose of our compulsory insurance laws which are designed to get compensation to injured victims of accidents on the road or at work.

For example, the motorist who drives at 50 mph in a speed-restricted area, is clearly not taking reasonable care, either for other road users or for the safety of his own car or his own person. If, *in his haste,* he knocks over a pedestrian on a zebra crossing, that pedestrian almost certainly has a valid legal claim for compensation which the motorist's insurers will meet, notwithstanding any reasonable care condition.

Moreover, depending on whether damage to the car is insured, insurers will normally pay for repairs as a result of the accident—so in practice the reasonable care condition is of virtually no effect in ordinary day-to-day traffic accidents.

Income growth from Gartmore

12·2% March 1975 22·2% March 1980

Gross yields to original investors

Unitholders who invested at the launch of Gartmore High Income Trust in March 1975 have seen the annual gross income from the Trust rise from 12.2% to 22.2% based on the original offer price.

£100 invested at launch has produced a gross income of £91.91 to date and in addition the offer price of the units has risen 109.5% (to 27th March, 1980) compared with a rise in the F.T. Industrial Ordinary Index of 58.5%.

The Trust achieved this combination of a high and growing income and capital growth through investment in high-yielding UK equities, together with a proportion of preference shares.

On March 26th the Chancellor announced that unit trusts would no longer be liable to Capital Gains Tax on profits made by the trusts. Therefore, if you would like details of our Share Exchange scheme, please tick the box below.

Remember the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as long-term.

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YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS 1

The Chancellor's speech on Wednesday included many measures to set investors thinking. On this page and Page 8 Financial Times writers discuss the changes

Welcome to a simpler system

TRUSTS

TIM DICKSON

THE PRONOUNCEMENTS of Sir Geoffrey Howe on Capital Gains Tax are of particular interest to unitholders and investment trust shareholders.

Besides raising the CGT threshold for individuals in the next financial year (1980/81) to £3,000 (beyond which all gains will be charged at 30 per cent) the Chancellor announced that unit trusts and investment *trusts will not pay corporation* tax of 10 per cent on chargeable gains in their portfolios after March 31. (Corporation tax in this context is capital gains tax by another name.)

The capital gains tax liability for investment trust and unit trust investors will therefore shift entirely on to the shoulders of the individual, who will be assessed for CGT just like any other ordinary shareholder.

As a result the 10 per cent tax credit, which since 1965 has been passed on to investors selling unit trusts and investment trusts, will disappear on disposals made after April 5.

The changes represent a significant departure and are widely welcomed by investment managers concerned. Under*standably* trusts complained in the past that a fund's freedom to deal could be circumscribed by tax considerations whereas the 10 per cent tax credit was useless in the hands of small (or unsuccessful) investors not liable to capital tax.

It is only fair to point out, however, that the tax credit was also advanced as a "bonus" for those who did pay CGT—the argument was that capital gains tax was in practice only paid on a small portion of the fund and yet the investor got the full benefit of 10 per cent.

All this anyway is now water under the bridge and the first question for investors now is what to do before the end of the tax year.

The answer, in fact, is the same as it was before the budget. The capital gains tax rates for the current financial year (i.e. 1979/80) are unchanged — namely no charge for the first £1,000 of gains, 15 per cent on gains between £1,000 and £5,000, 50 per cent between £5,000 and £9,500 and a straight 30 per cent above this.

Because of the 10 per cent tax credit the first £3,000 of unit trust and investment trust gains are free of CGT for the current financial year. Bed and breakfasting to establish gains is probably advisable to take advantage of those exemptions; bed and breakfasting to establish losses should only be considered by investors with gains to offset of over £5,000.

The new CGT rates (for 1980-81). are undoubtedly a vast improvement on the present complicated system. Apart from raising the threshold of the tax, it is worth noting that the 30 per cent rate is levied only on the slice of the gain above £3,000 and not on the whole gain.

This is a departure from the previous principle where gains totalling over £9,500 were subject to 30 per cent on the whole gain. The table illustrates the effect of the change.

Amount of gain	1979/80 Tax liability	Average rate	1980/81 Tax liability	Average rate
£		%		%
3,000	300	10	Nil	Nil
5,000	600	12	600	12
9,500	2,850	30	1,950	20.5
15,000	4,500	30	3,600	24

Source: Philips and Drew

The freedom of unit trusts and investment trusts from capital gains tax only partly offsets the Unit Trust Association's disappointment that the corporation tax rate of 52 per cent they are required to pay on unfranked income has not been reduced.

Many unit trust groups had high hopes of launching high income gilt funds but once again their plans will have to be shelved.

One problem could well crop *up for promoters of regular life* insurance savings schemes linked to a unit trust. Life companies have always had to make a provision for extra capital gains tax payable at the end of the term, a liability which until now has tended to be *mostly* offset by the 10 per cent unit trust tax credit.

Companies will now have to make bigger provisions and it is possible to anticipate the complaints of policyholders who expected to *get* near the full value of their units.

Another question mark hangs over the future of the many exempt unit trusts specially designed for pension fund investors. With the removal of unit trusts' liability to capital gains, there is no reason why these pension fund investors should restrict themselves to exempt funds. Henderson Administration, which manages £15m of pension fund money through its exempt trusts, points out that the charges on exempt funds are lower than on ordinary authorised unit trusts while the needs of institutional investors are often different from those of individuals.

Other unit trust groups, however, argue that specially reduced fees can always be negotiated with large investors. Moreover, institutional and private investors are by no means mutually exclusive.

Wider options

INVESTMENT

ANDREW FISHER

ARE EMPLOYEES really interested in owning shares in *the companies for which they* work? In spite of growing company interest in employee share schemes, it is hard to know what the workers themselves think.

Yet the Government is convinced that employees should develop a greater understanding of business and went a long way in this week's budget to make the notion of share schemes more attractive to both *sides of industry.*

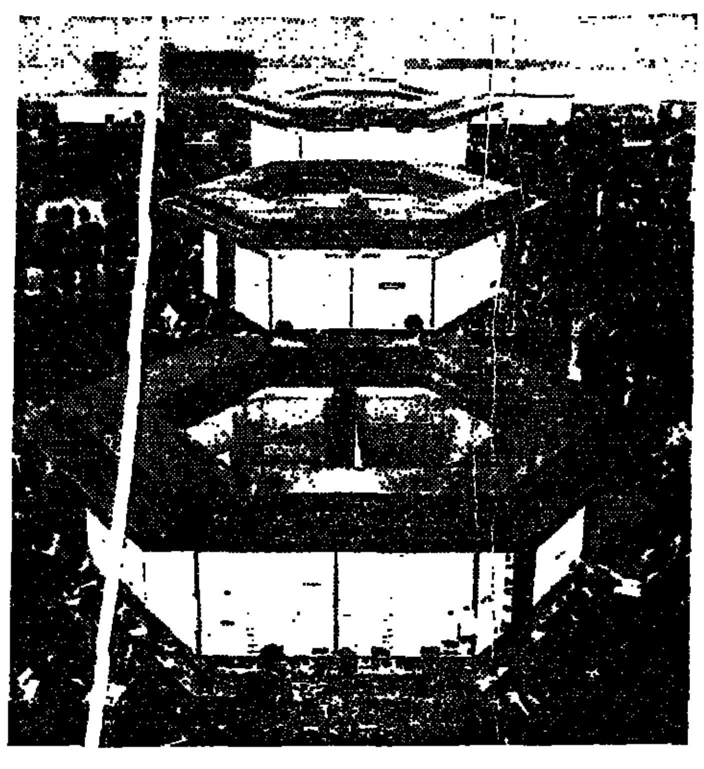
Sir Geoffrey Howe's latest action in this field seems to have met with the general approval of industry and other proponents of such schemes. "They're good," commented Dr. George Copeman, a firm believer in employee participation in industry through share ownership and an adviser to the Government and companies.

What the Chancellor did was to make significant improvements in the type of share schemes made possible under the 1978 Finance Act and to announce a new version of previous share option legislation, with full details still to be announced. The option scheme, under which employees can save money and later buy shares at a fixed price, will be linked to an official SAYE *scheme.*

Sir Geoffrey made his and the Government's commitment to the principle of employee share ownership quite clear in his lengthy budget speech.

"I believe that share owner*ship can also spread a wider* understanding of the role for risk-taking and initiative in the economic system." So far, 230 companies have gone to the Inland Revenue for permission to bring in their own share *schemes under the 1978 Act,* and 116 of these have been granted formal approval.

Companies will now be able to grant £1,000 worth of their shares to an employee—double the previous amount, although the Stock Exchange had asked for an even more generous increase. Moreover, the recipient need now only hold the shares for two years instead of five before selling them.



To avoid all income tax on the shares, he or she need now *only keep them for seven years* before selling. Before, they would have to be hung on to for ten years. Between two and seven years, the owner of the shares is subject to varying rates of tax on sale. The *improved terms only apply to* shares allocated after April 6.

The budget action means that companies can combine the SAYE-linked scheme, to be administered by the Department of National Savings, with their own share allocation schemes to enable employees eventually to build up a useful stake in their own company.

The option side of the Budget action follows the legislative initiative taken by Lord Barber about seven years ago. This cut the tax payable on options granted to employees, but the subsequent Labour Government removed this advantage.

Once the details of the new scheme have been worked out, an employee will be able to make regular savings for, say, five or seven years and then receive a tax-free lump sum bonus. Nor will he be charged income tax on any rise in the share price between taking out *the option and acting on it.*

Some companies which have so far been unwilling to go ahead with their own share schemes may now be encouraged to do so. One such is Redland, the large building *materials group, which has its* own OAYE (own as you earn) option scheme, but has held that company share allocations are only feasible if employees contribute a matching amount.

Mr. Anthony Hichens, Red*land's finance director, wrote* to the Chancellor last spring setting out his company's views

Both he and Dr. Copeman felt that the way had now been opened for more dual schemes like the one begun by British Petroleum last year. BP, which says the response among its workforce has been encouraging, grants its employees one share for every one purchased or transferred into the scheme. At the same time, they may save up to *£20* a month entitling them to receive shares at 90 per cent of their value on the day of the offer, normally after the year's results are published.

Close company sacred cow goes to the slaughterhouse

THE CHANCELLOR delivered a savage swipe against the whole concept of the "close" company—an area where tax law is at its most abstruse and arbitrary. The concept was developed largely to prevent individuals manipulating companies so as to reduce tax bills. The major preventitive measure was apportionment. This laid down that if income was retained in a close company—attractive because corporation and capital gains tax rates are below the top rates of income tax—tax would be payable as if there had been a distribution. On Wednesday Sir Geoffrey announced that the days of apportionment were over. With that announcement, the close company legislation becomes little more than an empty shell for tax purposes.

SACRED COWS can be a long time dying. Probably the most indestructible of those that have stalked the British tax legislation has been the concept of apportionment of close company income. All hail the heretical Chancellor who shot it this week

The theory was simple. If an individual, or a small group of individuals, make high profits in an unincorporated business, they will pay high rates of tax on those high profits, and will pay on the footing that those profits form their taxable income for the year concerned.

If those people were to earn the same profits in a company, the corporation tax payable by that company might be less—we will touch below on the question which companies pay the full 52 per cent rate of tax and which pay the "small companies" rate, reduced from 42 per cent to 40 per cent in the Chancellor's package.

Ever since personal tax rates have exceeded corporate ones, the Inland Revenue has been clear in its collective mind that allowing profits to be accumulated inside companies so as to save tax is immoral, and must be prevented.

The solution has been a system, preserved through many mutations including that from surtax to our present "unified" system of taxation, of taxing "closely held" companies as if their surplus income had been distributed to shareholders.

The complexities of the law and of its administration have been immense. For instance, it has always been recognised that the companies concerned must not be forced to distribute that *part of their profits needed for* development and expansion of their business, or for the servicing and repayment of loans raised for those purposes.

On the other hand it has beena cardinal extension of the *basic principle,* that the loan raised to set up or purchase the company's original business could not be repaid out of protected income. This resulted in voluminous definitions of the "first business loan"; and perhaps unsurprisingly it resulted *also in a market developing for* "shell" companies which had in an earlier existence repaid their original borrowings, and could thereafter be used as the vehicle through which altogether unrelated activities could be commenced by different shareholders.

Sir Geoffrey cut away last June the greater part of the gordian knot of first business loans. But what he has now abandonment of the whole theory of apportioning trading companies' profits to share*holders.*

Investment companies are different—he recognises that it is still so undesirable that investors should be allowed to receive their dividends into companies "under the control of five or fewer participators" that this category of income should still be apportioned, and proposed is an all-enveloping that any capital gains should be taxed not only inside the company, but again in the shareholders' hands when those shares change hands.

However, trading income (and this is to include also *any investment income up to* the lower of £3,000 or 10 per cent of the trading income) is no longer to be apportioned. As its most mundane consequence this change will save enormous amounts of time and effort on the part of shareholders, and their advisers, trying to demonstrate to the Revenue that "the requirements of the company's business" are such that profits should not be treated as distributable.

At a more fundamental level, Sir Geoffrey's move indicates official acceptance of the fact that the encouragement of business activity, and business expansion, is a more worthwhile cause than the pursuit of shareholders sheltering some part of their income from a 60 per cent rate of personal taxation.

The rate paid on this sheltered income? Forty per cent is to be the rate of corporation tax for companies with trading profits of £70,000 or less. Where profits exceed this, the excess slice is taxed at 66 per cent up to a level of £130,000—this means that at that figure the tax bill is an effective 52 per cent, and further profits are liable at that rate.

The Revenue will of course not abolish every complexity. There is a fiendish formula to tax investment income at 52 per cent while trading income enjoys the lower rate, where a single company receives both classes.

In a group of companies, each *is entitled only to a propor*tionate part of the small company's lower tax band. But Sir Geoffrey's proposals are an immense simplification of business life, and a very welcome encouragement for those econo*mically desirable characters* whose life is their business.

David Wainman

BUDGET NEWS
Personal pensions: tax allowance raised to 17½% of earned income -no limit

Now you can invest more, invest more, wisely.

The Chancellor's decision to allow larger tax-deductible pension contributions for the self-employed is a welcome one. But it places an even greater emphasis on the need for proven and consistently effective pension fund management.

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UNIT TRUST AND INSURANCE OFFERS

A huge sigh of relief all round . . .

LIFE INSURANCE

ERIC SHORT

THE ESTABLISHED life assurance industry has good reason to feel pleased with the Chancellor. For once, he has taken action to stop certain life companies misusing life assurance tax relief without bringing the whole edifice crashing down.

The loophole in question, of course, applied to high yield income bonds—a subject that has occupied a lot of newspaper space in recent months. These one and two year bonds relied heavily on the artificial use of life assurance tax relief to provide their very high yields.

The established life company associations, powerless to stop what they regarded as misuse, had publicly indicated that they would welcome any reasonable measure that would end these sales.

But the danger was that any Government action against these income bonds would be too sweeping. The life companies recall the last occasion in 1974 when Mr. Denis *Healey—in order to stop* the misuse of short term bonds—introduced "clawback" which hit the innocent as much as the guilty.

This time the Chancellor has been a model of restraint in *dealing with these bonds.* He has simply disqualified the life policy from tax relief unless the life company can show that the various policies in the plan can stand on their own.

Not surprisingly, the life companies concerned cannot do this, since the terms of the various policies were pitched artificially to make maximum use of tax relief. All the life companies concerned have withdrawn their schemes, most of them before the Chancellor even stood up.

Many companies have adopted a philosophical attitude. It was fun while it lasted. But now it is over, they have no plans for *another version. But* not so Liberty Life, the market leader in the field.

This company did not cease taking business until Tuesday—the last possible trading day and it is ensuring that all bondholders get their contracts approved.

Within hours of the announcement Liberty Life had produced a new series of bonds not relying on tax relief. But with the yield offered standing at 12 per cent net, it is a very pale imitation of its predecessor. Other forms of investment are now just as attractive.

Holders of two year and *longer term bonds are also* affected by the proposal to reduce from 1981 the rate of tax relief from 17½ per cent to 15 per cent. As far as two year bonds are concerned this will cut the final income payment.

But the life assurance industry, in general, was not surprised by this cut. It will simply restore the tax relief to half the basic rate. Under the old system of claiming tax relief this was done automatically. Since the Government's long term aim is to get basic rate tax down to 25 per cent, the Chancellor could even have considered cutting the relief to 12½ per cent.

The life assurance companies have also been given 12 months' notice of the change, to enable them to cope with the administration. For as far as policyholders are concerned it does mean that in 1981 the amount they pay life companies will go up to £10.30 for every £10 paid now. Life companies will have to ensure that investors understand the reason for this rise.

Also as far as marketing is concerned—a 15 per cent rate of relief—which means effectively that 17.6 per cent is added to every £10 of premium paid net by the investor—still gives life assurance an edge over other forms of saving. And finally, the Government has confirmed that it has no immediate plans for removing this relief.

It's been a good week for the self-employed

PENSIONS

ERIC SHORT

THE SELF-EMPLOYED have much to cheer in this week's Budget, not least in the proposed changes in pension provi*sion. So at last,* a Chancellor has taken heed of the pleas of the self-employed that they should be treated on a par with controlling directors in the amounts they can put towards their pension.

The main concessions are:

- The annual contribution limit eligible for full tax relief is raised from 15 per cent to 17½ per cent of net relevant earn*ings*, with corresponding higher *rates* for anyone born before 1916.
- The ceiling on annual contributions eligible for tax relief, at present £3,000, is to be removed.
- *Calculation of net relevant* earnings will no longer take account of such items at mortgage interest.
- Unused relief may be carried forward for up to six years, starting with the tax year 1974-1975. The existing provisions for the carry forward will be ended.

The main beneficiaries of these changes are the higher earning self-employed who can put aside realistic sums towards retirement. For example, a person earning £50,000 a year now can pay £8,750 a year in contributions whereas before he was up against a £3,000 ceiling.

The life companies could hardly believe their ears when the Chancellor made his announcement. This is the first major change in the structure of contribution limits since self-employed pensions were first introduced in 1956. It will mean a bonanza for those companies strong in this area who will no doubt concentrate hard on persuading existing clients to top up their contracts.

A quick check with some leading companies shows that they have been quick off the mark. Thanks to computerisation some companies have already sent branches lists of their clients, and most of them are busy reconsidering their market strategy for the coming tax year.

These changes come into effect in the forthcoming tax year, so if you are self-employed you have time to consider the position. The first point to remember is that your present life company may not be the best one for a fresh policy.

Conditions change and a top life company ten years ago is not necessarily a top company now. Furthermore, over the past decade, unit linked pension contracts have established themselves in the market.

It is therefore a time for a fresh look at the market. The self-employed and their advisers face a bewildering choice of companies and contracts and will find the self-employed pensions handbook published by Money Management* extremely useful.

Although published last *autumn*, the handbook editor is producing an addendum incorporating these changes.

Next, you need to go back to 1974-75 to find out whether there is any unused relief which you can exploit. Relief has to be used by the end of the sixth year after it becomes available. The life companies anticipate a lot of single premium business from these unused reliefs.

Finally, for the existing tax *year, which only has a few days* left, some self-employed can still take advantage of these changes. If they pay the maximum £3,000 this year, the excess over 15 per cent of net earnings can be offset in next year's tax liability.

Consider a man earning £12,000 this year. If he pays £3,000, he can claim relief on £1,800 this year and £1,200 next year. But it must be remembered that these proposals are not yet law.

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YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS 2

BUDGET BRIEFING

The perks 'industry' is under attack. But, as Eric Short explains, Sir Geoffrey's latest measures by no means slam the door

Car stays, TV goes

THE COMPANY car is no longer a perk—it is a way of life. This sums up the attitude of workers who have one, and those who don't, but think they might some time.

The present Government subscribes to the philosophy that fringe benefits are not necessary with low rates of income tax, and it has tentatively embarked on a review of the tax allowance system. Judging by the budget, however, it seems to have come unstuck with attempts to deal with the problem.

The Chancellor repeated the Government's criticism of fringe benefits in his Budget speech. But he then proceeded to nullify all he said by altering the tax treatment in a way which will have a negligible effect on the provision of company cars.

The Revenue lays down a scale of worth for a company car, depending on the cost of the car and on the engine size. The table shows the new scale of benefits. Thus if an employee at present has a company car of engine size less than 1,300 cc, costing not more than £8,000, his salary for tax purposes is increased by £190. This is hardly likely to deter the corner shop from providing a company car for the newsboy.

The Chancellor's action is to lift the amounts by 20 per cent for 1981-82, the effect being shown in the table. This means that fo rthe above car £230 is added to salary. No wonder the fringe benefit industry heaved a sigh of relief.

The Chancellor then made life easier with a concession. At present, these scales are halved if the employee travels at least 25,000 miles in a year on company business. Now the qualifying mileage is lowered to 18,000—not an enormous mileage to clock up in a year.

If the company car is used for insubstantial business use—at present if less than 10 per cent of the mileage is for business purposes—then higher tax benefit levels are charged. The Chancellor is changing the insubstantial use to 1,000 miles or less in a year on business purposes.

Then the benefit will be one and a half times scale rates. In practice, most employees make sure that they do sufficient mileage on business, even if it means personally dilevering urgent post to a branch a few times a year.

Mr. David Tallon, of Dearden Farrow, a leading firm of chartered accountants feels that this could be a stop gap measure to show that something is being done. It is one thing to identify the problems but quite another to find a solution. Besides, what would happen to British Leyland if the company car is curtailed?

The Chancellor, however, should have much more success in ending the provision of company suits, carpets, TV sets, Hi-Fi and other such benefits through his leasing proposals. This type of benefit, a pure perk, has received little publicity for obvious reasons.

Under the system, the company could buy a carpet for the executive's house for £1,000. The executive leased the carpet and 10 per cent of the value — £100 — was added to his salary — as a benefit in kind for each year he leases the carpet. After a period, say two years, the executive bought the carpet from the company for the second hand value.

Since a fitted carpet is not much use in another house, the market value could be as low as £200, and the executive was taxed on this value.

Under the Chancellor's new proposals, the executive will be assessed on 20 per cent each year of the value of the carpet at outset and on the balance of the original price when he buys it back, or more if the market value is higher at the time. In this example, the executive would be assessed on £200 at the outset, £200 in the second year, and on the £600 balance after two years.

In this respect the Chancellor has ended what has become an abuse of the leasing system in the provision of employee benefits.

Cheap company loans, other than for house purchase, no longer occupy a prominent place in fringe benefit planning. The interest not paid by the employee is assessed as a benefit in kind up to a rate prescribed by the Government. And the present rate is 9 per cent. The Government is always well behind in reacting to market changes in interest rates, and over the past year company loans have been a much better bet than bank overdrafts.

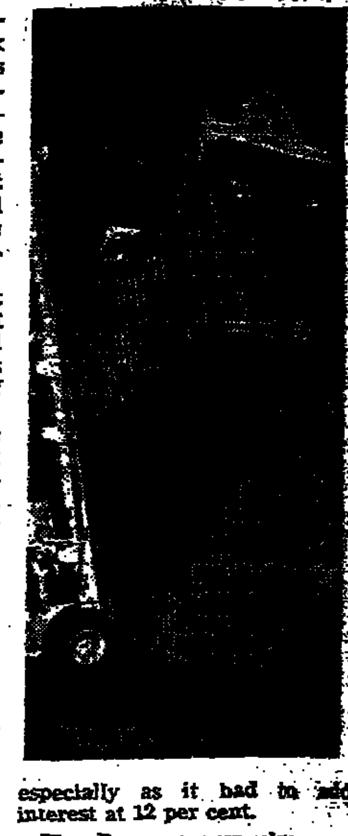
Now the Chancellor is putting the interest rate up to 15 per cent from May 6, 1980. He is also lifting the limit below which the benefit from the loan is not taxed from £50 to £200 from the year 1980-81.

BENEFIT VALUE OF A COMPANY CAR

Present scale	Benefit value £	1981/82 scale	Benefit value £
Cars costing up to £8,000		Cars costing up to £9,600	
1,300 cc or less	190	1,300 cc or less	230
1,301-1,800 cc	250	1,301-1,800 cc	300
over 1,800 cc	380	over 1,800 c c	450
Cars costing £8,001-£12,000	550	Cars costing £9,601-£14,400	660
Cars costing over £12,000	880	Cars costing over £14,400	1,050

At present these scale figures are reduced by half if the car does at least 25,000 miles a year on business. From 1981/82, the qualifying mileage is reduced to 18,000.

The big squeeze on leasing



THE OPPORTUNITY for private individuals to cut their tax bills by beoming lessors was firmly eliminated by the Government in the Budget. The leasing community worked until the midnight deadline on Wednesday to push through the last transactions in an annual market that had grown from nothing to an estimated £50m-£70m within a couple of years.

The Inland Revenue had let it be known—discreetly—last summer that it was concerned at the way leasing had, in its opinion, become a vehicle of tax avoidance.

Elimination of the private individual from the market became an even stronger certainty by late autumn as it became clear that many investors had been taken for a ride over container leasing, in which a large part of the activity was concentrated.

Until Thursday, private individuals could set off the capital allowances associated with leased plant or machinery against all income, and arequirement to establish that the leasing activity amounted to a trade had been liberally interpreted by the tax courts.

The new legislation effectively draws a much tighter interpretation of "trading." Individuals must prove that they devote substantially the whole of their time to the business. However, those individuals already in the market can continue to gain the capital allowances on any leasing rental income that they reinvest in new leases.

Two developments in particular have made the Government anxious to change the legislation. A growing number of people were using leasing to stretch the reduction in the top marginal rates announced in the 1979 Budget back into the past.

SSection 30 of the 1978 Finance Act, which was introduced to encourage the setting up of new businesses by allowing early losses to be carried back three years and set against other income, allowed individuals to lease against 83 per cent rates, for instance, to produce rental income taxable at only 60 per cent.

The Revenue particularly resented having to pay back tax that had already been collected, especially as it had to add interest at 12 per cent.

The Revenue was also concerned at the heavy use of "wife's earnings election" to produce disproportionate tax benefits. A typical scheme would involve a husband buying a container to obtain a capital allowance. Ownership of the container would then be switched to his wife, in a move not liable to Capital Transfer Tax.

The couple would then elect for separate earnings assessment which, if the wife had no other income, would mean that the income from leasing the container was taxed at a very low rate, if at all.

With individual lessors prevented from putting new money into the market, the outlook for the 30 or so small container leasing companies looks bleak.

Most of the companies that have sprung up operate only a few hundred containers and, without the prospect of rapid growth, will find conditions extremely difficult.

David Freud

Ernie sings Temptation

ERNIE'S NEW £¼m. monthly jackpot apart, National Savings had a surprisingly quiet Budget. With the 19th issue making building societies nervous, if not giving them breakdowns, the appeal of the Government's savings department has already been given a significant boost. Last month's National Savings sales figures, for example, were the best for a year.

The decision to announce a new top prize for Ernie was accompanied by an overall increase in the premium bond interest rate from 5¾ per cent to 7 per cent per annum from July 1.

This means that each year 7 per cent of the total amount invested in premium bonds (about £1.4bn) will be dished out, instead of the previous 5¾ per cent. As a result the current monthly prize fund of £6¼m will be increased to £8m.

While this may be sweet music to those who find Ernie's appeal irresistible, the new rate still represents a good deal for the Government and a poor one for savers. After all, the Government is paying 14 to 15 per cent on long dated gilts and more in the short term money markets. Why the discrepancy?

The answer from the Department for National Savings is that the prizes on premium bonds are free of all taxes (and therefore 7 per cent net could be considerably more gross) and, because premium bonds are more akin to a flutter than a genuine saving, their return should strictly not be compared with rates elsewhere.

The increase in the prize fund will be restricted to monthly payouts with most of the extra money being used to add to the number of prizes in the middle and lower ranges.

The number of £500 prizes will increase from about 330 to more than 900 each month. There will be 44,000 prizes of £100, compared with 27,000 at present, and about 28,000 £50 prizes. The weekly draw is not affected by the changes.

T. D.

A let-off for the house-letters . . .

LETTING YOUR west (or better still) south-facing wing can be a profitable, if potentially hazardous source of extra income for many householders. The Rent Act, which gives tenants protection not only against immediate eviction but also against more drawn out efforts to persuade them to move, has perhaps been the greatest discouragement to budding private sector landlords.

Another setback, however, has been the capital gains tax liability which houseowners who rent out some of their rooms face when selling their home. From April 6 this liability will be reduced, and in many cases abolished.

Buying your own home is a good investment primarily because the value of your house stands a better than average chance of keeping pace with inflation. House purchase, however, would not be so attractive if the capital gain made on selling the property was not exempted from capital gains tax (provided it is wholly occupied as your only or main residence).

At the moment, if part of your house is let, the exemption only applies to the part occupied by the owner—capital gains tax is charged on the part of your home inhabited by the tenant. (Lodgers living with a family, incidentally, don't count.)

As from April 6 capital gains tax relief will be extended to the let portion on two conditions. Firstly, this relief should not exceed the amount of relief attributable to the part of the house occupied by the owner. For example, if your tenant needs room to spread himself and only £3,000 of the £8,000 capital gain you make on selling your home is attributable to the part which you occupied, you can only claim a total of £6,000 in capital gains tax relief (i.e. £3,000 on your part and £3,000 on the tenant's).

The second condition is that the relief alowed on the let portion can be no more than £10,000.

Tim Dickson

On Target for April 15

UNITHOLDERS in Target Extra Income Fund will be the first unit trust investors to vote on a proposal to increase management charges since Government controls were scrapped in December.

An extraordinary resolution proposing a rise in the annual management fee from ½ per cent to ¾ per cent will be put to a meeting of Target Extra Income unitholders in Edinburgh on April 15.

If approved, the increase will take effect on May 2 but the Supplemental Trust Deed which will be laid before the meeting gives managers the power further to increase the annual management fee to 1 per cent a year.

In a letter to unitholders Mr. A. P. W. Simon, Target's chairman, comments. "We would only do that if our costs were to be further increased by inflation or other factors beyond our control to an extent which affected our ability to fulfil our duty to unitholders." No adjustment, meanwhile, will be made t the initial charge f 5 per cent.

The resolution, incidentally, will not just affect unitholders of Target Extra Income Fund. If all goes according to plan, unitholders of Target Thistle and Target Extra Income funds will have authorised a Scheme of Amalgamation just a few minutes before the vote on higher charges.

T. D.

Covenant change means charity still begins at home

WHILE THE Chancellor has undoubtedly given some help to savers and investors, he may arguably have given more encouragement to those willing to give their money away.

Charities at any rate must be feeling well pleased with Sir Geoffrey this weekend for his list of measures to help them covers most of the concessions lobbyists were hoping to win.

The most notable changes relate to charitable covenants, which allow charities to reclaim tax which would otherwise have been paid by the donor. From the next financial year for example (i.e. 1980/81), the minimum period for a charitable covenant to qualify for tax purposes need only be four years, against seven at the moment.

The Government hopes that by reducing the minimum commitment for potential benefactors, more people will be persuaded to make their charitable contributions via a covenant.

More significantly, however, income tax relief on charitable covenants which is allowed only at the basic rate, will (from the start of the 1981-82 financial year) be available at the benefactor's top rate of tax, subject to a ceiling of £3,000 per annum.

This is a major breakthrough although, as the following example shows, the onus will be on the benefactor to increase his donation.

Take, for example, someone paying 50 per cent income tax who covenants at the moment a net sum of £200 (this is the cash with which he actually parts). The charity is able to recover a tax repayment at the moment (at the basic rate of 30 per cent) of £85.71p, thereby giving itself a total £285.71p.

Under the new system the charity is still only able to recover the basic rate of 30 per cent. But for the same net cost of £200 to himself the donor will be able to covenant a sum of £280, attracting a tax repayment (assuming the 30 per cent rate remains the same) to the charity of £120, giving a grand total of £400. Remember that on his tax return the donor will be able to reclaim the difference between 50 per cent and basic rate (i.e. 20 per cent) of £400=£80, thereby reducing his net contribution to only £200.

It is thus up to individuals to adjust their own donations—otherwise they will be taking the benefit provided by the Chancellor for themselves.

It is well worth pointing out, incidentally, that these concessions do not apply to personal covenants, that is between grandparents and grandchildren or between parents and children in higher education. The rules for these remain as they are now, namely a minimum term of seven years and tax reclaimable only at the basic rate.

Another important concession is that tax free transfers to charities up to £200,000 can now be made on or within a year of death, against £100,000 previously.

T. D.

NEW CAPITAL TRANSFER TAX RATES

Transfers made on death or within 3 years before transferrer's death

Proposed new scale Portion of value £000s	Rate %	Cumulative Tax to bottom of range £
	Nil	Nil
50—60	30	Nil
60—70	35	3,000
70—90	40	6,500
90—110	45	14,500
110—130	50	23,500
130—160	55	33,500
160—510	60	50,000
510—1,010	65	260,000
1,010—2,010	70	585,000
over 2,010	75	1,285,000

Other Transfers

Portion of value £000s	Rate %	Cumulative Tax to bottom of range £
	Nil	Nil
50—60	15	Nil
60—70	17½	1,500
70—90	20	3,250
90—110	22½	7,250
110—130	27½	11,750
130—160	35	17,250
160—210	42½	27,750
210—260	50	49,000
260—310	55	74,000
310—510	60	101,500
510—1,010	65	221,500
1,010—2,010	70	546,500
over 2,010	75	1,246,500

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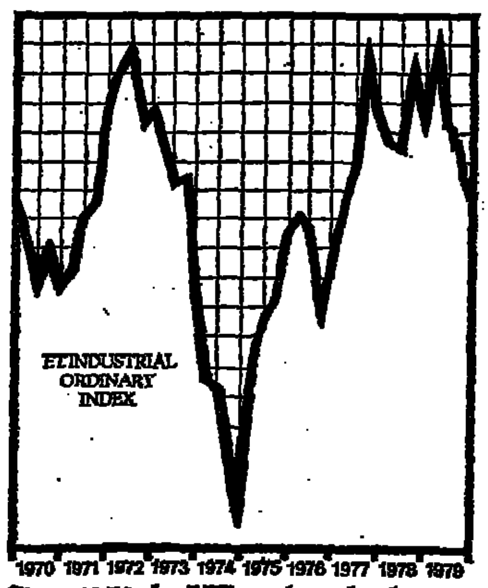

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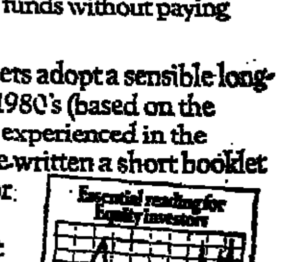

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BOOKS

Dinner with Doctor

BY ANTHONY CURTIS

Doctor Fischer of Geneva or The Bomb Party
by Graham Greene. Bodley Head. £4.50, 140 pages

Do you remember Harry Lime's jibe about Switzerland in *The Third Man?* That was written into the script by Orson Welles. Graham Greene appears to have reserved his own condemnation of that prosperous neutral country until now.

In his new novel—or should one say, "nouvelle," its roughly the length of *The Aspern Papers?* — Greene does for Switzerland what he did for Sweden in *England Made Me.* He plants an Englishman in the employ of a vast multinational company there and he makes his environment reflect all the deadliest sins in the Greene canon. The company our man works for markets chocolate on a global scale and by the end of the story chocolate has come to seem more noxious than heroin or cocaine.

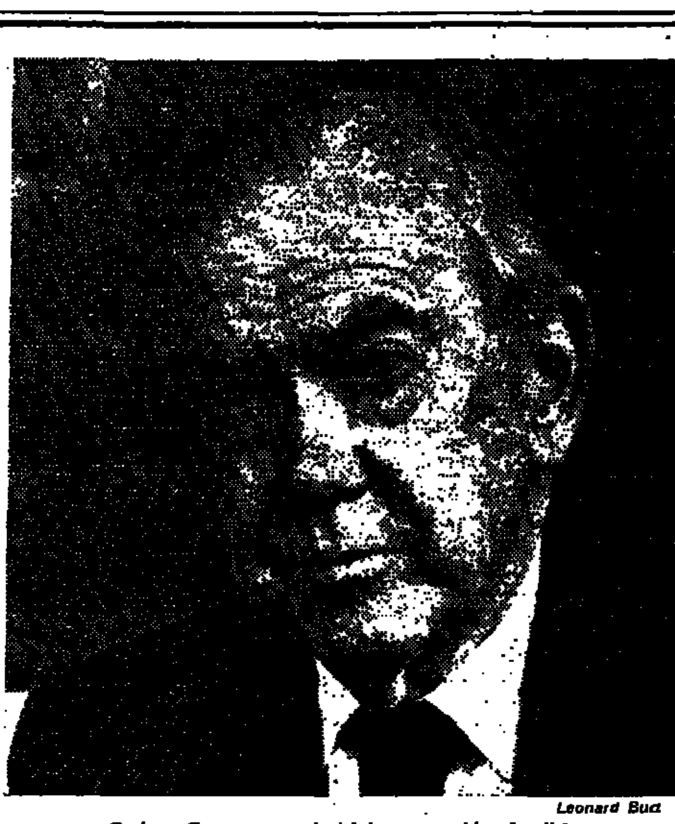
The Englishman, Alfred Jones, who lost a hand in the London blitz, is employed by the company as a translator. True to the Graham Greene law by which beautiful young girls fall instantly in love with middle-aged men, his boss's pretty virginal daughter loves him after one chance encounter, and they marry. Her father is the Doctor Fischer of the title, a sadistic multi-millionaire who gives lavish dinner-parties with the sole purpose of humiliating his guests. These guests, all tax exiles naturally, are as seedy, greedy a crew as you can imagine even in this author. At the end of each Fischer dinner party the doctor rewards his faithfuls with fabulously expensive presents, but in order to qualify they have to put up uncomplainingly with one of his foul japes, such as eating a revolting plateful of cold porridge while he scoffs caviar.

Ginger-haired, red-bearded with a tongue like a whiplash, Fischer is a supreme example of the diabolical practical joker (Auden's phrase to describe Iago). He is a little like J. M. Barrie's Lob in *Dear Brutus* with all the whimsy squeezed out of him, and his function here is similar, mercilessly to expose the flaws in the characters of his guests. The impulse to practical joking is evil because it assumes a divinity over the victim, and should therefore be restricted for its outlet to April 1, though it may be found in the character of a kindly *person, as Mr. Greene showed* in the cuckolded dentist of *The Complaisant Lover.*

By contrast, Fischer's jokes probe at our weaknesses without any anaesthetic. Alfred Jones allows himself to be drawn into this circle when he becomes the doctor's son-in-law and after a peculiarly nightmarish dinner at which he stands up to the old man and forfeits his present, he ponders the doctor's own motivation. What is the point of it all?

Then fate takes a hand. Jones's wife is killed in a skiing accident. The few pages where he sits in a restaurant at the edge *of the slopes, reading* Herbert Read's wartime anthology *The Knapsack,* waiting for her to come back, is vintage Greene, the best piece of writing in the book. God has deprived Jones of his prize with a cruelty much more dire than the wickedest devising of Fischer. Why? Because of what *offence? Jones has to puzzle* this out as he goes to Fischer's ultimate party, a variation of the Russian roulette game with fortunes at stake.

This finale, with its reprise of a lethal game that enlivened Mr. Greene's youth, will cause many readers to wonder whether the whole book is not itself some kind of literary practical joke deriving from the *same impulse that prompted* this writer to contribute self-parodies to the New Statesman competition columns under pseudonyms and walk off with a couple of prizes. In a sense it is the *jeu d'esprit* of a writer whose reputation is secure whatever he publishes. On another level it may be read as a parable of damnation in a Calvinist setting which, I predict, students *of his work are going to expend* a great many words expounding in the years to come. His own words throughout are severely rationed, in contrast to the extravagance they depict, well-suited to this macabrely entertaining contribution to modern demonology.



Leonard Burt
Graham Greene: practical joke or parable of evil ?

Airy fairy

BY C. P. SNOW

Dickens and the Invisible World
by Harry Stone. Macmillan Press. £12.00. 370 pages

Professor Harry Stone has for years been conducting a one-man guerrilla campaign in order to make us receive some new thoughts about Dickens. This book is his first comprehensive statement, and it is impressive. It demands serious consideration by anyone who has tried to understand Dickens. There is now something like general agreement, after a very long spell of critical opacity, that Dickens is one of the very greatest of all English writers. There also ought to be general agreement that he still slips through the meshes of contemporary criticism. Stone has, with good manners but considerable firmness, broken through those meshes. He is saying something both original and sensible, and the combination is unusual. My first impression, which I may want to modify, is that he has a very good case, but has somewhat overdone it.

The case is, in its simplest terms, that Dickens was, from early childhood until old age, fascinated by fairy stories. Fascinated is too weak a word—hypnotised might be nearer. Fairy stories fitted hand-and-glove with Dickens's extraordinary capacity for fantasy *and fanciful imagining.* Stone produces evidence—unknown to most of us, though presumably not to Dickens scholars—of a long controversy between Dickens and his old friend George Cruikshank. Cruikshank was a splendid illustrator, but he was impelled to launch a set of improving versions of *the old English fairy stories.* He was a dried-out alcoholic, to whom teetotalism was the most vital cause on earth. Fairy stories had to be used to express the evils of drink. Dickens was *furious. The stories were* sacrosanct and must be left in their primordial innocence. In that, of course, Dickens was right. He was also one of the most formidable and savage of controversialists and his attacks were brutally funny. The series of improving fairy stories faded quietly out. That was the end of a beautiful friendship.

Stone proceeds to trace the indirect influence, and even the direct presence, of fairy stories in Dickens's art. Stone does this with complete command of Dickens's text, and with an eloquent and persuasive rhetoric of his own. The fairy godfathers (Pickwick, the Cheerybles Brownlow): the fairy godfathers in disguise (old Chuzzlewit, Boffin): the fairy godmothers in disguise, as with Betsy Trotwood: the demon figures, with the supernatural powers of appearance and disappearance, Quilp, Fagin; the touch of the magic wand, which ultimately punishes evil and rewards good, at the end of so many of the novels.

In the earliest books, Stone's argument runs, the fairytale themes weren't woven closely into the stories proper. The Christmas books sharpened Dicken's skill in how to do it, as shown in *Dombey, David Copperfield,* and, most magically *of all, in Great Expectations.*

Many of these examples it would be perverse to quarrel with. Further almost all of Stone's readings, even when, or particularly when, he gets away from his specific theme, are brilliant pieces of exposition. He is specially good at illuminating the biographical references, *cunningly concealed but* much deepening the emotional intensity, which run through all Dickens's writing. But, to a reader only half convinced, it would have been helpful if Stone had drawn comparisons with novels of comparable imaginative power, such as Dostoevsky's. The comparison would be specially valuable, because Dostoevsky, in spite of appearances, was nearer to the root of life.

In *Dombey* and *Copperfield* it is possible to grant a good many fairy tale interventions. Dickens hadn't the compulsion to tell as much of the truth as Dostoevsky had, and used devices congenial to him. Wish - fulfilment, though it is the origin of most fairy stories comes from a deeper source and can be independent of the myths. It is possible to read *Copperfield* pretty straight, as though it was stripped of the fantasies, and not be deceived about the primary themes—until one comes to the prize-giving at the end, when one has to recognise that Stone has scored some points.

With *Great Expectations* Stone is on firmer grounds throughout, and future critical attention will be superficial without study of the two chapters here. The fairy tale categories are overwhelmingly compelling. Miss Havisham is a false fairy godmother, really a witch. Estella is her assistant and bait. It is not Estella who is the princess, but Biddy—and so on. Stone doesn't have to *stretch his case too far,* and is at his own imaginative and scholarly best. He makes one wonder whether this may be the book where Dickens's imagination, fancy, and darkening experience came together into the most perfect artistic whole. Stone doesn't make this explicit claim, but it would be rather a *surprise if he didn't believe it.*

Down among Donleavy

BY MARTIN SEYMOUR-SMITH

Schultz
by J. P. Donleavy. Allen Lane. £5.95. 376 pages

Metroland
by Julian Barnes. Cape. £4.95. 176 pages

The Pew Group
by Anthony Oliver. Heinemann. £5.95. 185 pages

The Good Morrow
by Dawn Lowe-Watson. Heinemann. £5.50. 243 pages

The now highly predictable work of the Irish-American novelist and playwright J. P. Donleavy has become the subject of a cult, although how many of the subscribers to it have private reservations I should not like to guess.

His first novel, *The Ginger Man,* was at once his most psychologically convincing and his best. It was quite well written and it fitted in well with the new rebellious spirit of the 1950s — now carried to such ridiculous extremes as to dispense altogether with c o h e r e n c e, characterology (people still have characters) or even talent.

J. P. Donleavy failed to develop the relatively promising vein of *The Ginger Man* and turned, instead, to whimsical extravaganza, pseudo - black comedy, heavy-handed fairy-tale charm, sentimentality. Even his titles became zany, as if to reflect the supposedly effervescent content. He gained some admirers, and not the least because he exploited a vein of blarney lyrical prose, some of which he has recorded in a *voice intended to be bewitching.* And at this point I should confess my prejudice: I do not like whimsical fantasy which isn't of the very highest quality (such as *Zuleika Dobson*) and so doubtless he has given many intelligent readers wonderful and professionally contrived entertainment which has left *my mean and unresponsive self* cold.

But *Schultz* really does carry things rather far. Its cover has a vulgar and garish picture of a distraught-looking man, waving dark glasses, whose trousers have fallen to his ankles. That, and nothing much else, is what the novel is essentially about. Schultz, descended from Czech rabbis, is an impresario in London who is tormented by two caricature English aristocrats. Schultz suffers—need I say it?—from priapism and mother-in-law trouble.

Donleavy's zest is all too *evident, but how anyone could* devote so much energy to so childish a tale is beyond at least my comprehension. If this script had gone the rounds as the work of an unknown it would have been turned down as outdated, as boring in its unfunny descriptions of sex, and as too obvious and ineffective a *pastiche of that (at the present* time) fading Irish-American writer J. P. Donleavy.

Metroland, a first novel, is an engaging and unusually deeply felt evocation of adolescent life in the early 1960s in that area of London served by the Metropolitan railway. The principals, Christopher and Toni, do *eventually grow up—and Julian* Barnes skilfully connects their first stirrings of adulthood with the nature of their youth. But the most important and original part of the book is about that very youth, the recapture of which is not at all as easy, in urban areas, as many would like to imagine. Julian Barnes's *special strength lies in his* willingness to look back at the (at least apparently) embarrassing silliness of it all without inhibition—and thus show its importance. It is a charming, readable and well written novel, and promises well.

Anthony Oliver is an expert *on antiques, and especially on The Victorian Staffordshire Figure,* which is the title of an authoritative work he has written. He has now used his considerable knowledge to write a highly entertaining and sensible puzzler, *The Pew Group,* in which the problem is: Who stole a valuable Staffordshire figure while enjoying a lavish repast served to those who have just attended an antique-dealer's funeral.

The piece in question first appeared on a local fund-raising stall; it ends in a big London sale-room. Anthony Oliver has few illusions about the integrity of the antique trade in general, and his story is as amusingly written as it is ingenious. If he decided to use more violence he could even become to the antique trade what Dick Francis is to racing.

Dawn Lowe-Watson's *The Good Morrow* is an intelligent and unpretentious sentimental story. It is a politely modulated study of the conflict between generations—and possibly the polite modulation will refresh some readers who have become tired of an undue emphasis on the element of family mayhem.

Felicity is unhappy because her daughter Frankie is unhappy: she can't understand why. But then she and her husband are tormented by their own parents: her vain and ageing mother and his half-crazily reactionary father. Though the book is over-optimistic and written in clichés, the optimism is neatly justified and the clichés neatly paraphrased. A nice book, worth reading, and wholly unpretentious.

J. P. Donleavy: cult figure

All for life

BY PETER QUENNELL

Dictionary Johnson: Samuel Johnson's Middle Years
by James L. Clifford. Heinemann. £10.00. 372 pages

To almost any kind of mania or phobia, nervous fear or morbid fancy, from which one may oneself have suffered, one can almost always find a reference in the biography of Samuel Johnson. Even Shakespeare seems to have known little more about the horrors of "a mind diseased." But, while we have few descriptions of the poet's private character, Johnson's has been described and discussed at length, both by the great biographical artist Boswell and by a host of shrewd observers, among them William Hogarth, who, on first meeting him with Richardson, concluded that he must definitely be deranged, so weird were his incessant shakings of the head and the "strange ridiculous manner" in which he rolled and rocked his huge unshapely body.

Yet, despite all his quirks, Johnson was still regarded as a fount of wisdom and an arbiter of taste and common sense: and just why he should have held that grandiose position, from the middle of the 18th century until his death in 1874, no biographer can quite explain. Perhaps it is *the ambiguity of his nature*—the contrast between his personal weaknesses and the majestic influence he exercised—that attracts the modern student and produces an unending flow of books.

The latest comes from Professor James L. Clifford, whose *Hester Lynch Piozzi* (1952) and *Young Samuel Johnson* (1955) are already classics in the field. Professor Clifford died in April 1978; and his posthumous volume covers Johnson's middle period, 1749 to 1763, during which he wrote his most distinguished periodical essays and his fantastic novel *Rasselas,* besides triumphantly carrying through his noble *Dictionary of the English Language.* Boswell, however, who had not yet encountered him, devoted a mere tenth of the *Life* to this stage of his career; and the background material that Professor Clifford provides often helps us round off Boswell's portrait. It is interesting to be reminded, for instance, that, although his tragedy *Irene,* with Mrs. Pritchard as the heroine, has a somewhat ludicrous debut, since the audience would not allow *their favourite actress to be* murdered on the stage, Garrick's production ran for nine nights, by 18th-century standards a satisfactory achievement.

Some contemporary critics, moreover, asserted the piece had "great merits," and suggested that it was the finest tragedy of the age. One of the *many useful services that* Professor Clifford performs is to record the exact circumstances, personal and professional, in which Johnson wrote his works, and how they were praised or blamed by the cultivated reading public. *Rasselas,* the professor admits, is "not a very compelling story"—Johnson was neither an inspired dramatist nor a brilliantly gifted novelist; and his "Eastern Tale" (where he prophesies flying machines) consists of a series of splendid generalisations rather loosely strung together on a tenuous thread of narrative. But, while other journalists disapproved, according to the Gentleman's Magazine it presented "the most elegant and striking pictures of life and nature, the most acute disquisitions and the happiest illustrations of the most important truths."

Professor Clifford also introduces us to a large array of minor personages who played some part in Johnson's life; no previous biographer has studied the period more affectionately and thoroughly. But he does not, I think, although he enriches the background, change our view or heighten our understanding of the enigmatic central figure. With the main outlines of the likeness he draws we were already well acquainted.

Johnson is still the vigorous lover of life who informed Garrick that drinking and "f——" were the greatest human pleasures, yet, once he had lost his idolised consort Tetty, a "little painted Poppet" 21 years older than her spouse, made heroic efforts to abstain from both; still the pessimist and puritan, haunted by half-imaginary sins and a life-long fear of death; still the violently prejudiced moralist, who denounced a clever and charming woman as "a whore" because she had dared to leave a brutal husband, although he himself always delighted in the conversation of the raffish Bet Flint, "a slut and a drunkard (he announced) and occasionally a thief and a harlot."

*Johnson's oddities and incon*gruities remained with him throughout his life; and they were growing worse in 1765, soon after the point at which Clifford ends his story; when his depression was verging on dementia and he first encountered Mrs. Thrale. She brought him the only period of comparative emotional calm he was ever to enjoy: and her betrayal of him, as he chose to regard it, caused him his bitterest and profoundest grief.

In short—Elspeth Huxley to Kollontai

Nellie: Letters from Africa
by Elspeth Huxley. Weidenfeld and Nicolson. £8.95, 344 pages

Elspeth Huxley has for 50 years been the chronicler, and indeed the propagandist, of the Kenya Settlers. Here she adds, as a footnote to the *Flame Trees of Thika* trilogy and the Delamere biography, a portrait of her mother, Nellie Grant. It promises to be a modest curiosity; it turns out to have, within its admitted limits, both charm and fascination.

The book falls into two parts. The first is a "memoir" by Elspeth Huxley of her mother's life from 1885 to 1933. Nellie then takes up her own story, from 1933 until her death in Portugal in 1977, recounted through a tactfully edited flow of letters to her daughter. So the tale spans the first pioneer years of the "great and honourable enterprise" of Kenya's settlement (in the daughter's phrase) through Depression, wartime and Mau Mau, to independence and the rejection of much of what the Grants/Huxleys stood for.

"Was amazed last night" [writes Nellie in 1963], "They played the Kenya National Anthem for the first time on the wireless. I waited for something garish, blatant and cheap, but the most beautiful melody came over, restrained, sad, with the sadness and misery of deep-down Africa in it . . ."

There are two achievements here. One is the picture of the day-to-day life of the White Settlers for a generation and more, without too much of the Happy Valley shenanigans. The second is the portrait of one woman, from an upper-class English family in decline, who set off to East Africa in 1912 in innocence and ignorance and who coped with an outwardly unsuccessful life with inexhaustible courage, energy and humour.

At the age of 80 she emigrated again, to the Algarve: all she took with her to show for 50 years in Africa was three trunks and a couple of dogs. But she also had a daughter to commemorate her.

J. D. F. JONES

Alexandra Kollontai: a biography
by Cathy Porter.
Virago. £12.00
(paperback £4.95). 537 pages

Alexandra Kollontai was born in 1872, daughter of a wealthy former general in the Tsar's army. She married Vladimir Kollontai, whose name she kept, despite leaving him and their son for involvement in the Marxist *Union of Struggle for* the Working Class in St. Petersburg, at a time of widespread strikes in the 1890s, prelude to the revolution.

In her political activities, she singled out for particular attention the potential role women might play in social change—not as polite, professional, liberal feminists, but as workers whose particular needs as women had been given scant regard by the Bolsheviks. Her crusade was to educate women and mobilise them over demands for economic and sexual equality.

She was forced to spend nine *years in exile as* a result, returning to Russia in 1917 after the February revolution. She became Minister for Social Welfare, the only woman in Lenin's cabinet, and subsequently responsible for education.

She eventually clashed with Lenin over his New Economic *Policy,* which she condemned as having abandoned the revolution's commitment to transformation in the social fabric to a depth she considered vital. Women were sent back to their traditional tasks and roles, as Lenin opted for expedience and set about solving problems he deemed of more urgent priority.

Alexandra's opposition earned her political eclipse. She spent the rest of her life in worthy but distant diplomatic missions. She died in 1952, two decades before interest in her and her ideas were revived in Europe, by the women's movement. Her writings are now being translated and becoming more widely available.

Alexandra had argued for separate women's organisations; for political emancipation and equality at work, certainly, but also for broader consideration of the family's role in society. The psychological legacy of centuries of oppression could not, she felt, be underestimated in its impact on women.

Cathy Porter has made an important contribution to contemporary understanding of these questions in writing the life of this remarkable woman. She has also translated Alexandra's novel, *Love of Worker Bees,* shedding light on people's everyday life, public and private, during and after the revolution.

Her new book places Alexandra Kollontai's life properly in its historical context and manages to avoid both the dryness of pure political chronicle and the potentially tempting romanticism of an extraordinary, beautiful woman's exploits in turbulent revolutionary times.

Alexandra's life is interpreted not as that of a heroine, but as part of a quest for human progress through changes in society as a whole, particularly in the lives of women. Times have changed since her day: but the quest goes on.

EVA KALUZYNSKA

The Jewish World, Revelation, Prophesy and History
edited by Professor Elie Kedourie. Thames and Hudson. £15.00, 328 pages

This is a weighty tome in many respects. It contains 436 illustrations, 135 in colour, 301 photographs, drawings and maps, while the texts are a succession of essays by 18 academics each dealing with a different aspect of *Jewish* theology and history from Abraham to the twentieth century.

The historical sequence will be the simpler to grasp for the non-Jewish reader, who has generally gained some knowledge of the Bible from the Fall to the great schism of Roman times that gave birth to Christianity and thence to the uneasy status of a minority sect persisting in its ancient ritual despite the sometimes hostile disdain of the surrounding majority. Yet Professor Kedourie devotes an equal number of chapters to the inner *history of Judaism—the Bible,* the Talmud, Jewish philosophy, mysticism, imaginative literature and the challenge of modernity—which are the very heart of the doctrine the Jews have sought to preserve.

The uniqueness of Judaism is not due solely to the fact that in Professor Kedourie's words it "'gave birth' to Christianity and Islam." Nor is it due to the "close link between religion and politics" which can be found among other ancient peoples. But it is in part due to the fact that

". . . the Jews who wandered in the land of Assyria or wept by the rivers of Babylon or were taken by Titus into captivity . . . could draw on spiritual resources which enabled them to withstand, individually and as a community, the chances and changes of politics."

In an excellent essay on the Bible, Mr. Hyam Maccoby demolishes the theological theories of Julius Wellhausen who asserted that there was a constant conflict throughout the Bible between tribalism and universalism. Although the Bible was written over a period as long as that in English literature from Beowulf to T. S. Eliot, "both universalism and particularism exist in harmony with each other, and even implying each other." He concludes that the dichotomy between Israelites and Jews is a false one; the religious culture of Israel is indivisible.

The tragedy of Jewish history *since the French Revolution has* been the fact that nationalism and democracy seemed to offer the prospect of liberation from obscurantist bigotry: but in fact central Europe has proved in the 20th century to be even more intolerant than the ancient régimes.

WILLIAM D. SHOLTO

The Several Lives of a Victorian Vet
by Jean Ware and Hugh Hunt. Bachman and Turner Ltd., £6.95, 213 pages

To be "discovered," albeit as an octogenarian, is perhaps better than not being discovered at all. Although public recognition had never been high on Dr. Griffith Evans's list of priorities, professional integrity was. As he said in his 88th year, when plagued by a bevy of reporters on receiving the honour of Father of the Medical Profession, "I *wish they would leave* me alone. I do not like being flattered in public." This "honour" and the accumulation of telegrams 12 years later, including those from King George V and Queen Mary and Lloyd George were not only an acknowledgement of his tenacity of life but they were also a tribute to his pioneering achievements into tropical medicine.

On the whole, the book's historical aspect is of more general interest than the veterinary aspect, especially when one considers that events of three continents and two centuries have been packed into one life time. It has been well documented and is largely based on Evans' diaries and his letters to his wife from India. The impoverished young veterinary student who began his career amidst the squalor of Dickensian London soon became a dashing young officer in the Royal Artillery and on his first posting to Canada, at the height of the American Civil War, achieved a private interview with Abraham Lincoln at the White House. This interview, a prime example of his dogged determination, enabled him to tour the field hospitals and the Federal lines. Later he found himself in India after the Mutiny, and it was for his research into parasitology, and his discovery of the debilitating effects of the Tsetse fly on humans and horses that the world acclaimed him years later.

KATE MORRISON

Portrait of English Literature
by Ifor Evans. Sidgwick and Jackson. £8.95. 247 pages

This is a scholarly, lavishly illustrated review of English literature from Beowulf to Virginia Woolf. It is a complete revision of a classic work. The author has only been able to devote a few paragraphs to each of our great writers of prose, poetry and drama but at least he inspires the reader to study and pursue the nature of English literature further.

Lord Ifor Evans is both concise and thorough. He also shows a feeling for the real world that Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth and the like lived in and the impression it had on their writings. The many changes that have taken place from the time the first literature was written in English to present day forms of expression are all explained.

LUCINDA WETHERALL

Crimes for all

BY WILLIAM WEAVER

The Anathema Stone by John Buxton Hilton. Collins. £4.75, 207 pages.

Chief Superintendent Kenworthy and Mrs. K arrive in the Derbyshire village of Spentlow for an autumn holiday. It rains. But rain is not the only unpleasantness: there are also a pair of murders, and a cast of local characters which includes some really murderous (and murderable) gossips. There is plenty to gossip about in Spentlow, and even the Kenworthys do not escape close observation and criticism. John Buxton Hilton knows—and loves—his ground: and in spite of the weather and the nastiness, he makes this corner of Derbyshire attractive through his alert sensitivity to the natural setting. The unnatural goings-on are also neatly described, with a plausible surprise ending.

Proceed to Judgement by Sara Woods. Macmillan, £4.95. 192 pages

Mrs. Woods has a formula which, by now, she has refined to perfection. It works like a well-oiled machine. Her QC hero Antony Maitland is persuaded to take on a seemingly hopeless murder case: Antony's strait-laced Uncle Nicholas disapproves; Antony's wife Jenny pours oil on the troubled waters. As Antony starts investigating, things look worse and worse for his client. The case comes to court: at the last minute Antony proves somebody else did it, and his client is freed. This time the presumed guilty party is a couple, lovers, and the victim is her odious husband. Mrs. Wood disguises the bare bones of her plot neatly, attractively; Maitland fans will rejoice.

Felony at Random by Dell Shannon. Gollancz. £4.50. 239 pages

Dell Shannon's formula, an imitation of the highly-successful Ed McBain 87th Precinct, involves the operations of the Los Angeles police, with ample accounts of the officers' lives at home. The author presents, one after the other, a series of crimes; some are solved promptly, others grow more important and become the armature of the novel. Finally the important ones are solved, the cops' home lives reach a stasis, and the book ends. This time Lieutenant Mendoza becomes a father, worries about his grand new house; Higgins goes house-hunting; Hackett buys a flashy automobile. Meanwhile, the crimes pile up at such a rate that the reader easily becomes confused. In the end, the officers are more interesting, more characterised than the criminals (though, as usual, Shannon provides some fairly bizarre misdeeds).

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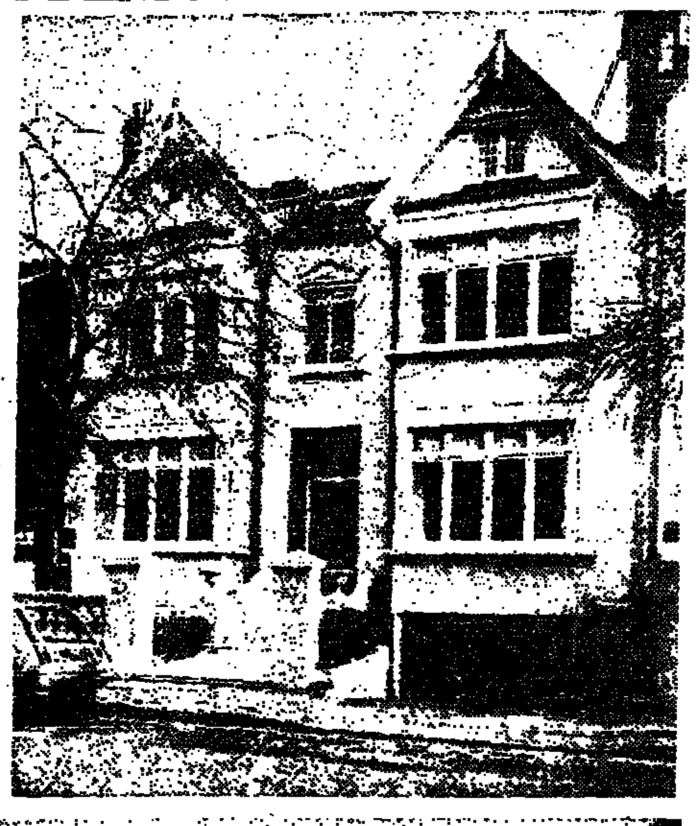
PROPERTY

Right: Stockbroker Etienne Mazé, son of French painter Paul Lucien Mazé, is retiring to France and selling his impressive seven-bedroomed home in Victoria Road, London, W.8. There is a garden, garage and a basement self-contained apartment together with a wine cellar and the price is £435,000 for the freehold. Details David Pallatt, Chestertons, Kensington Office (01-939 7244).

Below: The 17th-century Post House, Newton-in-Cartmel, with views to the Coniston range in the English Lake District, was the village post office until eight years ago when it became a six-bedroom home. Graham Adnitt, Jackson-Stops & Staff, 25 Nicholas Street, Chester (0244 28361) is looking for a figure of £70,000 plus which includes a barn for conversion.



To the Dordogne . . . with a windfall

BY JUNE FIELD

ALTHOUGH most agents for *overseas property report* a surge of interest since exchange control was lifted in the UK, *inquiries have not always been* backed up by actual saels. Mr. Frank Rutherford, director of *the long-established* European Property Service, told me: "The type of British purchaser interested in converting a farmhouse in the Dordogne, or buying a renovated cottage in the Lot et Garonne is likely to be a business or professional per*son with a relatively modest* income.

"Sales are more likely to be the product of a windfall, such as an inheritance, rather than of accumulated savings."

Mr. Rutherford points out that a fresh factor that should be *taken into consideration*, is the relatively cheap finance available in France. "Mortgages of 50 per cent are easily obtained by non-residents, and although *originally* expensive by traditional British stadnards, are now good value. *Fifteen per cent for* a five to 10 year mortgage which can largely be financed by rental income is not really exorbitant "

Mortgages are available only on the security of a house that is ready for occupation—if it has flush plumbing and other facilities. But loans can be obtained *for up to half the cost* of renovation, for which copies of the builder's estimates have to be submitted.

Although the typical dream*place in a few acres of ground* with a walnut tree is getting harder to buy, and cannot be picked up for a song. I found quite a few of the old favourites that originally attracted *British* buyers.

There are restored cottages or *fermettes* near the lively market town of Ribérac, complete with *bread oven, stable and store*room *cave*, small Perigord-style houses in a few acres with a barn for conversion, and an old convent for transformation into a home, "only for the intrepid, requires considerable *love* and devotion and a deep pocket." Most are within the £9-£17,000 *bracket*.

For details of what is currently on offer, contact Mr. Rutherford, European Property Service, 194 Old Brompton Road, London, SW5 (01-370 2145).

A copy of *France—An Information Handbook*, which tells *you most of what you need* to know about conveyancing, income tax, schools, health, medical and social security, will cost you £5. This includes free membership of a *travel* club which has special low rates to France.

Mr. Nicholas Brimblecombe, who started a property service in the Dordogne area back in 1972, said: "We do not offer villas, indeed such a concept is *not to be found in this part of* France, so some concessions to the more basic French way of life in the countryside must be made if you are thinking of *living an unsophisticated rural* existence."

From Box Cottage, Sutton, near Pulborough, West Sussex (07987 3776), Mr. Brimblecombe *will supply* a list *of* houses for sale in the Lot-et-Garonne region, which includes a small house in the rough, with old quarry and 2½ acres of woodland, at *£12,625*, and various converted and unconverted barns and houses from around £15-£30,000.

If you want to sample the life-style, send for his *Vacances de Campagne* brochure which describes farmhouses and *cottages for rent as holiday* homes in the Dordogne, Provence, Armagnac and the Charente.

Meanwhile, the Federation of *Overseas Property Developers*, Agents and Consultants is in the course of revival. When new applications for membership have been considered, a meeting *will be called to elect new* officers, Mr. Geoffrey Pilgrim, the founder, says.

Restored stone-built house at Auriac-sur-Dropt with views over the river up to Monteton: £23,150 through Nicholas Brimbleecombe, Box Cottage, Pulborough, Sussex.

The federation has a constitution and code of conduct drawn up with appropriate legal advice, and while it obviously will not be a panacea, either for its members or the public, I feel sure that one of its functions could be to serve as an arbitration point for buyers and sellers.

Buying and selling property in this country is an emotive business, abroad it can be even more so. Any professional and authoritative organisation that can contribute to a happy and satisfactory relationship must be worthwhile.

Those in the business who want to know more should write to Geoffrey Pilgrim, Azure Securities Ltd., 29-30 St. James's Street, London, SW1.

THE TELEVISION Budget special programme I watched underlined the extra tax on Bingo several times, but the Chancellor's *stirring words* on house-purchase—"home ownership adds to the quality of life" —went unremarked.

Small comfort, but better than *nothing, certainly* for first-time buyers, was raising the starting point for stamp duty on a house-*purchase scheme from* £15,000 to £20,000; with so much revenue at stake, it is probably understandable that Sir Geoffrey felt unable to give any higher *exemption*.

The reduced rate will mean that there will be a saving of *some £95 on a £19,000 property*, while for the £20,001-£25,000 bracket, although reduced by *half-per* cent, *will still* attract £100 to £125 duty and so on pro rata, with the scale about £35,000, 2 per cent.

"At least it is a step in the right *direction though*," *insists* Mr. Tim Hamilton, sales director Barratt Developments (London) in *Wallington, Surrey*, part of one of Britain's biggest building groups. Comments in the trade on the Budget generally, says Mr. Hamilton, is that the Government *have* at last got some proper understanding of the problems of builders and developers, which is having a good effect on morale. He attributes his own "*quite fantastic* sales" on some of his top of the market new houses over the last *few months; to the company's* mortgage subsidy which freezes the rate at *11¼* per cent for a year.

There is naturally considerable disappointment overall *that there was no increase* in the mortgage interest relief ceiling, which is maintained at £25,000, which the building societies were of the opinion *should be raised to double* that amount, the true level to keep pace with inflation. Presumably some of the reasoning here is that those taking out a loan *above £25,000 could* well have some equity from the sale of a previous home.

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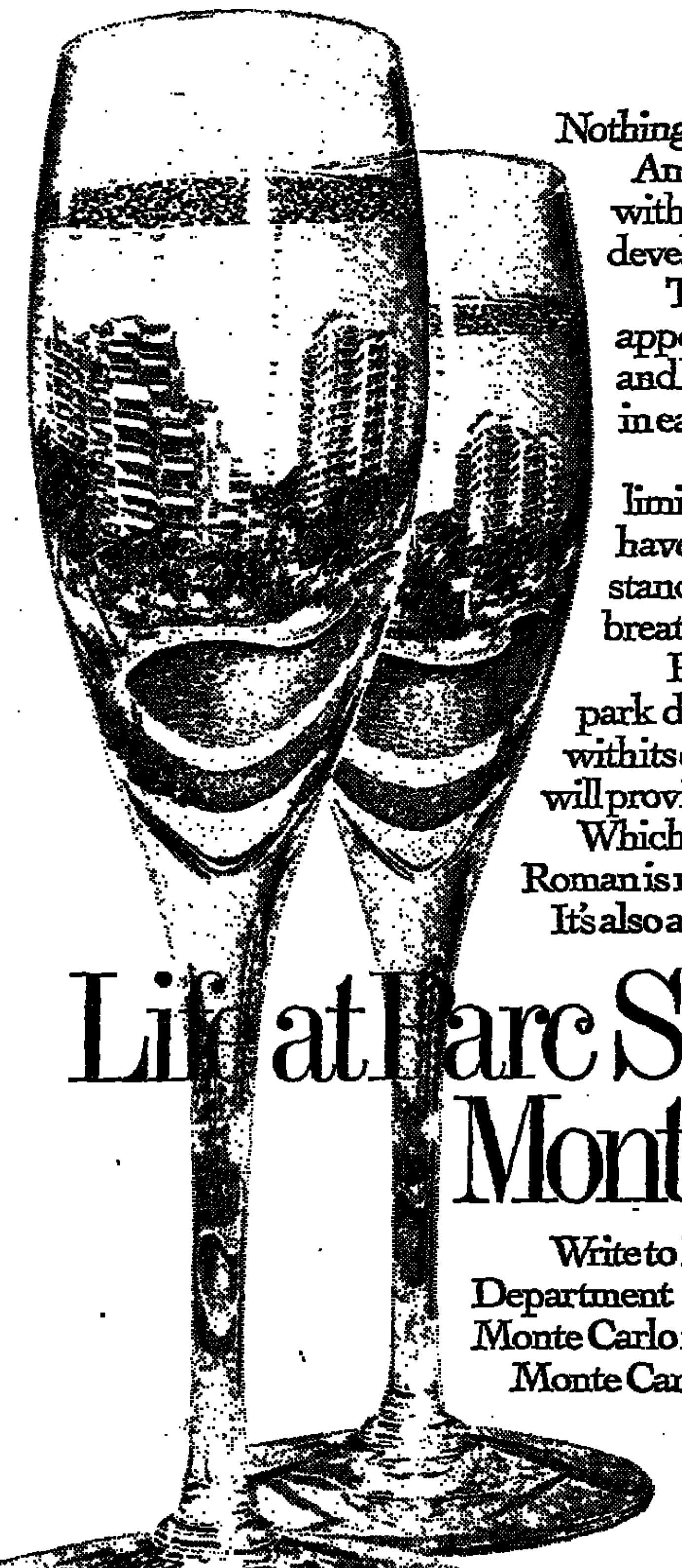

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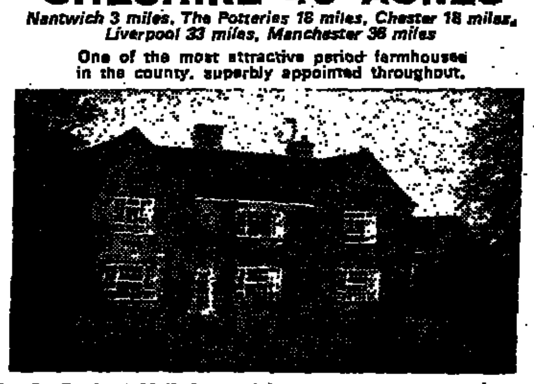

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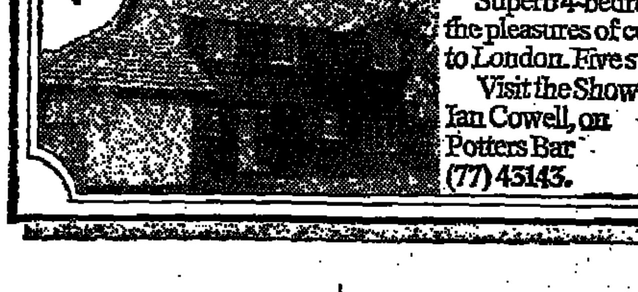

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BEN WRIGHT

NO ONE at Sawgrass on Jacksonville Beach, Florida last weekend could believe that Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player and Lee Trevino had never played together before in serious competition, but it is a fact.

Those who believe, as I do, that golfing history has a habit of repeating itself will remember that when Nicklaus and Trevino went at it head to head at Merion in an 18 holes play-off in the 1971 U.S. Open, "Supermix" won easily by three strokes, 68 to 71. Three years later they were paired again in the final round of the USPGA Championship at Tanglewood country club in rural North Carolina, and again Trevino was the winner, this time by a single shot. So it came as no surprise to me when Trevino triumphed at Sawgrass with his partners eventually floundering, and the major challenge coming from Ben Crenshaw (whose putt for a tie shaved the 18th hole from 18 feet, a miss that also deprived him of a new course record of 65). Seve Ballesteros and Tom Watson. Indeed Ballesteros played as brilliantly as did Crenshaw, but for both of these attractive youngsters, normally such inspired putters, the vital ones just refused to drop. In fact Ballesteros recorded only one birdie on the inward half at the dangerously watery 175 yards 15th hole, and this was where Trevino was to make his decisive and solitary homeward birdie an hour later. Watson never achieved the necessary momentum until it was too late, and eventually he recorded a birdie at the 18th to tie his partner Ballesteros for third place, a single shot behind Crenshaw and two behind Trevino.

It is a marvellous tribute to a golf course that has been much maligned, chiefly because of the vagaries of the weather on the north-east coast of Florida, that all day the leader board read like a Who's Who of the modern era. Early in the second half of his Sunday round Trevino led by three shots at 10 under par, his eventual winning aggregate from no less than six players, who just happened to be Nicklaus, Player, Watson, Crenshaw, Ballesteros and Hubert Green.

Ironically this was the last TPC to be played at Sawgrass. The championship will move inland literally just across the street to the Tournament Player's Club in 1981. But this will not be the disaster it might appear. Having toured the Pete Dye-designed new course in a four-wheel-drive van with construction director Vernon Kelly last Monday—it is due for completion in October—I have no hesitation in forecasting that it is already certain of a place in the top ten in Golf Digest magazine's annual ratings of the 100 best courses in the United States. Dye's architectural inspiration in evidence at Harbour Town Links, this weekend's tour stop on Hilton Head Island off the shores of South Carolina, The Golf Club in Colombus, Ohio, Amelia Island Plantation off the North Florida coast and at Casa de Campo, La Romana in the Dominican Republic stamps this erratic genius as head and shoulders above anyone else in the business. The Tournament Players' Club, which will play at no longer than 6,800 yards, par 72 may well turn out to be Dye's most spectacular jewel.

Huge spectator mounds looming out of the trees will certainly make it a dream course for watchers. The par three 17th, with an island green raised out of a lake and surrounded by vertically placed railway sleepers, will be reached by a similarly bullwarked narrow causeway from behind and play at a maximum of 145 yards. The par five 9th and 18th holes swing right and left respectively around another lake, and it is estimated that the nearby mound will allow 40,000 spectators to view the action at the last hole alone. I am sure the 17th and 18th will soon become as much photographed as the legendary 16th hole at Cypress Point. And I am just as certain that the TPC will soon be acknowledged as a major championship. What a great thing it would be if it were moved to September, the best weather month in the area, to replace the World Series of Golf — a distinct failure—as the logical conclusion to the season. In my mind the USPGA Championship in August should then revert to matchplay, which this country so badly needs.

Back to the events of last Sunday afternoon. When Nicklaus recorded a birdie at the 187 yards 12th hole to get within two shots of Trevino he seemed to be poised to mount a realistic challenge. But three woeful putts after a pulled second shot to the wrong side of the 13th green destroyed whatever hopes Nicklaus entertained. And three more shots dropped untidily to par, one at each of the last three holes, dropped Nicklaus into a tie for 14th place. Jack was as crestfallen as one had ever seen him.

Player was similarly destroyed by allowing his drive from the 14th tee to slide right out of bounds on the breeze. His second ball came within a few feet of a similar fate. And so all that remained to be seen was whether Trevino would beat himself. He nearly did, pushing his drive so far away from the water at the 17th that he could not reach the green. Now he had to make par five to win. Trevino laid back from the tee with his one iron, bunted his second safely away from the water, and then hit as sweet a wedge shot as one could wish to see to close the door.

Not so Grand National

RACING

DOMINIC WIGAN

SPARTAN MISSILE was the only withdrawal at the final declaration stage for today's Sun Grand National. Nevertheless, the race has attracted only 32 runners, making it one of the smallest National fields since Merryman II disposed of 25 opponents in 1960.

Although it is difficult not to agree with the major bookmaking firms, who have made Rubstick (yet to fall in 67 chases) favourite, odds of 6 to 1 or thereabouts cannot be rated near "value."

Three who strike me as far better propositions in terms of betting value are The Vintner, Wagner and Mannyboy, who are respectively available at 20—1, 25—1, and 66—1.

The first-named, on whom Bob Davies deputises for the Irish jockey, Joe Byrne, has hardly been a model of consistency of late, having fallen in two of his last three races. However, he has been tackling the best over distances short of his optimum in such races as the Cheltenham Gold Cup, and will be seen to far better advantage over today's 4½ miles.

Wagner, one of the bottom weights on the 10 stone mark, is another sure to appreciate this marathon course. After Stephenson's still-improving 10-year-old was not disgraced last time out, when failing to give weight to Castle Arch over an inadequate trip at Stockton.

Josh Gifford, who was probably robbed of a victory in Foinavon's year, when Honey End found no way of escaping the melee at the 23rd, has Mannyboy in fine trim judged on the gelding's recent showing at Lingfield. There, Mannyboy was running on gamely when failing by the minimum distance to cope with Royal Exile.

In what promises to be one of the most open Nationals of all time, The Vintner is just preferred to Mannyboy and Wagner.

Forty-five minutes before the National, all eyes will be on Monksfield, when the remarkable little Irish hurdler lines up for the Sun Templegate Hurdle. Monksfield, already a winner four times at Aintree, will appreciate this afternoon's two miles 5½ furlongs a good deal more than the two miles over which he was not disgraced, when beaten by Sea Pigeon, in the Champion Hurdle.

AINTREE

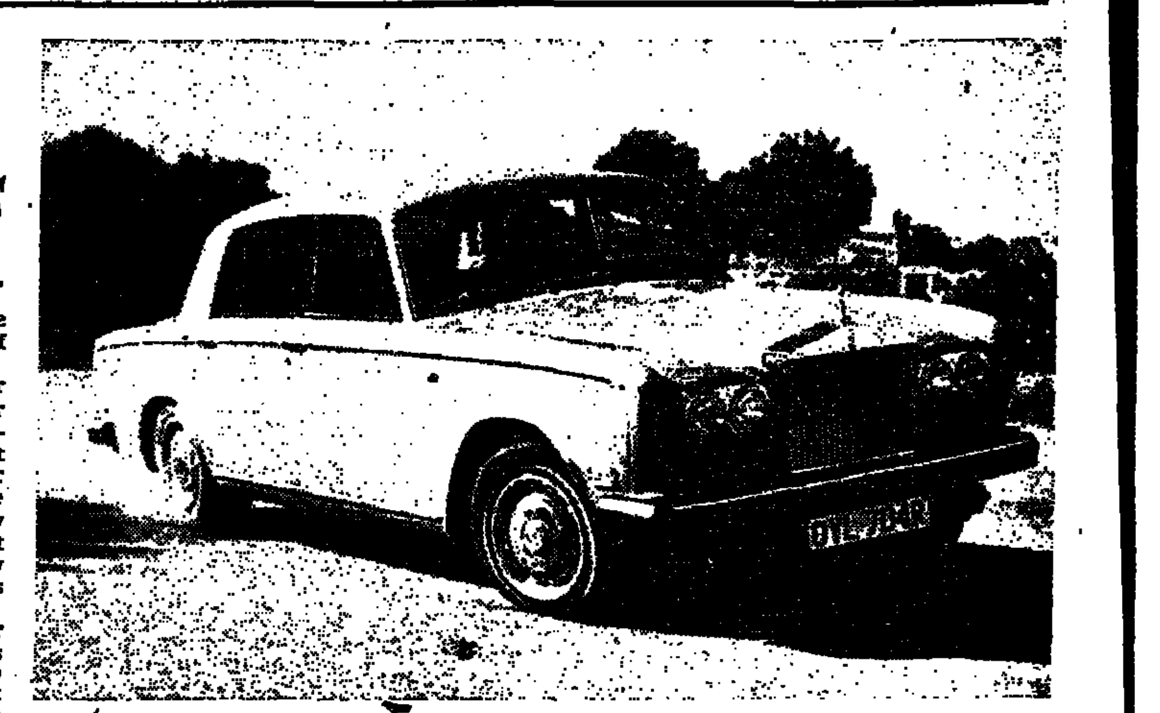
2.00—King Weasel*
2.35—Monsfield
3.20—The Vintner
4.05—Ballydonagh
4.35—Silversmith***
5.05—Brave Fellow

SALISBURY

1.30—Kellord
2.00—Pink Blues
2.30—Kampala
3.00—Chant**

A Rolls is a Rolls

BY STUART MARSHALL



The £39,219 Silver Shadow II. It is fast and handles well and is still unmatched as a status symbol.

FIRST, let us get the inevitable and odious comparisons out of the way.

The Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow II costs £39,219, for which one can still buy a four-bedroom detached house. It will also make one the owner of two Jaguar XJ12 5.3 litre saloons, which are considerably faster, not so thirsty, as quiet mechanically, ride as smoothly and handle better than the Rolls at high speed.

A good, five-seat motor car with a conventionally luxurious interior and the same top speed as a Rolls can be bought for not much more than one quarter of the Silver Shadow II's price—the 117 mph, 21 mpg Ford Granada 2.8i Ghia, for example.

None of which is of the least importance, or even relevance, to the three and a half thousand or so people, about half of them British, who will buy a Rolls-Royce this year. What is it, then, that makes a Rolls so special, so uniquely desirable, even though quite a few other cars are theoretically close to being its match?

*There is no logical answer. Financial considerations, it could be argued, favour the Rolls Royce, assuming you can raise the price of one in the first place.

They hold their value remarkably well. A year old, low mileage Shadow II will sell today for more than it cost new. Depreciation rates on most other makes of large (and especially large engined) car make depressing reading. And Rolls Royce do, of course, have a reputation for longevity and reliability, given the necessary servicing and regular replacement of a few parts. This reputation is based on hard fact. For example, the Silver Shadow II Rolls loaned me earlier this month had more than 40,000 miles on the clock. That struck me as confidence in the product bordering on sheer arrogance because most Press cars are disposed of before they see 10,000 miles. The Rolls looked, felt and even smelled, exactly like new.

The Rolls-Royce's position at the head of the automotive pecking order is a reflection of its status. Whether it is the best car in the world any more (or, come to that, whether it ever was) is neither here nor there. Those who buy one most surely consider it to be—and that is what counts.

One can argue that since the Rolls Royce became a favoured possession of asset strippers, whizz kids, professional criminal and pop stars (which it has) its status has diminished. That simply is not true. The Rolls may also have succumbed to that great leveller, the parking ticket—they are no longer automatically sacrosanct—but it still arouses respect, even awe, on the part of people who have never driven, or even had a ride in one.

The sight of the Spirit of Ecstasy crouched on the end of that long and gleaming bonnet does something to a driver. I know I was more courteous and considerate than usual, refusing to be impatient, waving people out of side roads. Why? Noblesse oblige, I suppose. Plus, of course, the knowledge that if I cared to floor the accelerator the two-tons of Silver Shadow I was driving would dust-off all but the most muscular of the opposition. Its 10 seconds from 0-60 mph is the same as a 4.2 Jag's, though the XJ12 leaves it standing.

When you first slide on to the great leather throne of a driving seat you are aware that, whatever else the Rolls-Royce is, it is different. The thin rimmed, rigid steering wheel feels agreeably old-fashioned compared with the padded, four-spoke safety types that have become so popular. The fascia is an engineer's, not a stylist's creation, despite its perfectly matched walnut veneer covering. The lights and screenwiper switches are on the instrument panel though, curiously, the turn indicator arm works the screenwash. The headlamp wash/wipe has white bristled brushes that look like something out of a Jermyn Street hairdresser's salon.

A Rolls feels bigger from the inside than it looks from the outside. You become aware of its 17 ft overall length and 6 ft width when threading it carefully through back streets but the power steering is precise and effortless. Handling of the first Silver Shadows was soggy in the extreme — deliberately so, because Rolls-Royce didn't want to frighten off American customers who were moving up to one of their cars from a Cadillac.

When the Shadow II was introduced three years ago it had a completely new front-end, with rack and pinion steering and modifications to allow radial-ply tyres to be used. The result is that this big car can now be hustled along winding roads with surprising speed and complete confidence. On the motorway it progresses in a near silence, broken only by a little wind noise. Tyre noise one notices only when the road surface changes.

The American automatic transmission is ultra smooth though it thumps and jerks during manoeuvring first thing in the morning when the cold engine is running fast on the choke. The adoption of fuel injection, which must be on Rolls-Royce's priority list, would get round the problem.

The ride quality is equal to the very best. The car feels Citroën-like in the way it floats over bumps and undulations: not surprisingly, because both have a similar ride height control system though the Rolls is suspended on steel springs, not hydro-pneumatic units. It rolls a bit on corners; the Avon steel belt radials on my test car showed signs of the shoulder wear that comes from tyre scrub when cornering hard.

It is now 15 years since the original Silver Shadow appeared. The only thing that would show a 1965 Shadow with a cherished (and thus timeless) number plate was not a 1980 model would be its lack of an aerodynamic spoiler and of rubber and plastic protection on the bumpers.

Perhaps this is one of the attractions of owning a Rolls: only the sharpest eyed of one's friends would know it wasn't a new one. The interior has a mature though unfashionable elegance, in much the same way as a Savile Row suit lacks the sharpness of one from Shaftesbury Avenue, but is none the worse for it.

This happy situation won't last much longer. A new Rolls-Royce has been talked about for a couple of years and will be seen at the next Motor Show at the NEC, Birmingham. But don't expect any revolutionary changes. One upheaval like the introduction of the Silver Shadow to replace the Silver Cloud III is enough to last Rolls-Royce a lifetime. The new Shadow for 1981 and onwards will, I suspect, look a little slimmer fore and aft, but it won't be much different underneath. Its status will be undiminished; and the price (if anyone is interested) can only go up.

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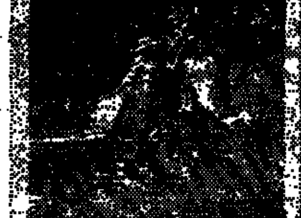

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Daimler 4.2 Auto, Air Con. Cotswold/Dark Blue	£1590.00	£530.00	72%
Jaguar XJS Auto. Sebring/Black	£1620.00	£540.00	71%
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Jaguar 5.3 Auto, Air Con., Damson/Cinnamon	£1725.00	£575.00	70%
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Jaguar 4.2 Auto. Racing Green/Cinnamon	£1380.00	£460.00	76%
Jaguar (1979) 4.2 Auto. 6,000 miles, Cotswold/Dark Blue	£1170.00	£390.00	80%
Rover 3500 Auto, selection of colours and trim	£708.00	£236.00	92%
Austin Princess 2000 HL Auto, selection of colours and trim	£378.00	£126.00	99%
Ford Granada 2.8 Ghia Auto, Apollo Green	£750.00	£250.00	92%
Ford Granada 2.8 GL, Sirius Red	£645.00	£215.00	100%
Renault 30 TX Auto, Dark Green	£795.00	£265.00	92%
Renault 20 TS Auto, choice of colours	£540.00	£180.00	100%

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TRAVEL/GARDENING

Lots of activity

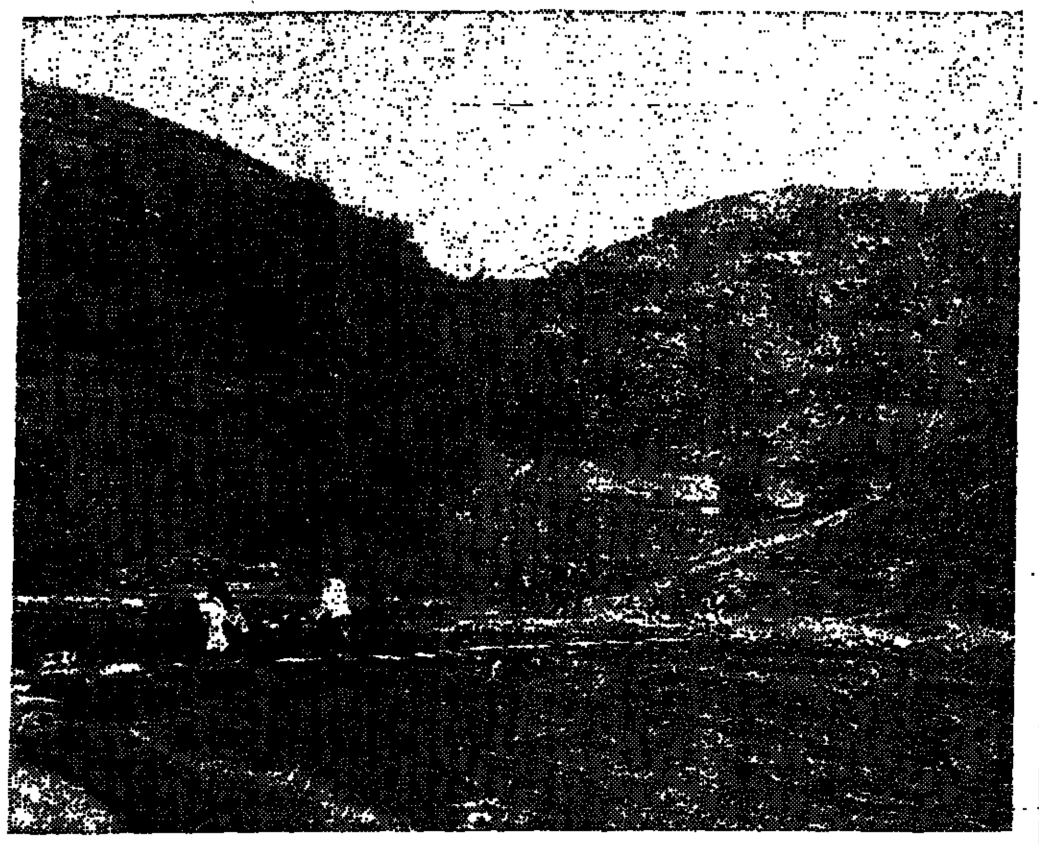
BY SYLVIE NICKELS

SINCE THE opportunities for activity holidays have grown quite phenomenally, it is only possible to summarise the astonishing range. An encouraging factor is the increasing recognition that you do not need to be either very young or very hearty to enjoy most of them, even for the first time. All our national tourist boards give helpful clues in their annually revised and free general publications but additional ones at a fairly nominal cost give more specific guidance. Prices quoted throughout include postage and packing.

A comprehensive survey is the English Tourist Board's 44-page *Activity and Special Interest Holidays* (£1.10) which summarises the offerings of organisations all over the country and gives all the addresses. A random selection from the index demonstrates the variety: astrology, blacksmithing, judo, mine exploration, knitting, philosophy, pre-retirement courses, real ale, screen printing and weight-lifting.

Some of these are more active than others, of course, and on this occasion I shall concentrate on those requiring a modicum of physical effort, ranging from the spartan to the pretty luxurious. Falling into the comfortable category, Edale Adventure Holidays in the Derbyshire hills tell me that their multi-activity weeks covering pony trekking, sailing, rock climbing, hill walking, orienteering and caving also attract many middle-aged guests. You do not have to try everything, but the most unlikely people apparently do. All specialised gear is provided.

On a nation-wide guest house basis, Holiday Fellowship and Country-wide Holidays Association cover a considerable range of special interests for all ages. Some multi-activity packages have an age limit, like the Yorkshire Dales Adventure Centre (15-25) or PGL Young Adventure (seven-30, depending on tour), often using dormitory accommodation. At the other end of the scale, Saga Holidays have a minimum age of 60. Quite a few multi-centre arrangements, such as Saga's in Harrogate and those of Otterburn Hall Holiday Hotel in Northumberland or North Pennine Outdoor Pursuits in Yorkshire, specify that some are suitable for the disabled. This is also true of some specialists in natural history and conservation, like the Field Studies Council, one of whose centres is particularly suitable for the handicapped. Among other activities, air and water sports, fishing, golfing, hunting, shooting, riding, walking and mountaineering all get good coverage.



The stepping stones across the River Dove in Dovedale, Peak District

Field studies, not surprisingly, feature strongly in Scotland, and a good many packages are to be found in *Holiday Ideas '80*, free from the Scottish Highlands and Islands Development Board. Caledonian Wildlife Services, Highland Safaris, Highland Guides and the Aigas Field Centre are among those arranging journeys of discovery into the region's rich wildlife under expert guidance. Not mentioned, however, is the small-scale, fairly expensive but highly qualified operation of Erskine Tours, particularly catering for American visitors, with five tours this year led by a widely-travelled RN Commander who is also devoted to his native Highlands.

Golf, fishing and sailing are among other popular package themes. For those who prefer to do their own thing, though, the Scottish Tourist Board produce the following publications: *Scotland: Home of Golf* (75p), *Scotland for Sea Angling* (75p), *Scotland for Fishing* (80p), *Walks and Trails in Scotland* (70p), *Walks and Trails Pack* (£1.40), and *Scotland for Hill-walking* (50p).

The Wales Tourist Board, too, has its special publications, among them: *Wales: Walking* (70p) and *Angling Guide to Wales* (£1.20). They also publish free brochures on *Pony Trekking and Riding* and *Sailing and Water Sports*. A new venture in walking holidays that sounds rather appealing goes by the name of Earthwalk.

It consists of six-day walking tours in the hills and vales of the Mid Wales borderlands, with all your bits and pieces transported for you to the next overnight stop (camp sites with all equipment and meals provided); particicipants' only responsibility is to walk, with guide, an average 10 miles a day, mostly through remote and unspoilt countryside.

If you would like to survey a broader geographical canvas, two publications that include Britain but extend world wide are: *Adventure Holidays 1980* (£2.45) published by Vacation-Work, and *Guide to Adventure 1980* (£2.45) published by Vacation-Work, and *Guide to Adventure 1980* (£1.50) from Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges. The first divides the world according to type of activity and gives a useful note concerning each organisation's length of experience; the second provides its guidance country by country.

Addresses: English Tourist Board, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W ODU; Highlands and Islands Development Board, Bridge House, 27 Bank Street, Inverness IVI 1QB; Erskine Tours, 14 Inverleigth Place, Edinburgh EH3 5PZ; The Scottish Tourist Board, 23 Ravelston Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EU; Wales Tourist Board, P.O. Box 1, Cardiff CF1 2XN; Earthwalk (Johanne and Philip Brachi), Pen-y-Wern, Kerry, Newton, Powys; Vacation-Work, 9 Park End St., Oxford OX1 1HJ; Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges, 43 Dorset St., London W1H 3FN.

Cheap Channel crossings

FINDONG THE cheapest way to cros the Channel is getting to be as difficult at ferreting out the cheapest airfare to some exotic spot like Abu Dhabi. There are tremendous bargains on offer but do not expect local travel agents, or even the ferry companies, to go out of their way to tell you about them.

Take Sealink, for example. The normal return fare on its Dover-Calais run at t he moment for a family of four in a typical car, such as a Cortina, is £104.60. In addition, it offers a 60 hour excursion (£75.20) and a 5-day excursion (£88.00). These are well advertised in its 1980 brochure available at any railway station or travel agent. Ignore them.

They have been made obsolete by Sealink's £40 return fare for a car plus four passengers for trips of up to 10 days during March. Every month Sealink has been making a special offer and this has thrown the travel trade into confusion since it means Sealink's brochure is virtually useless.

Townsend Thoresen, the other big operator on the Channel, has basically matched Sealink's cut-price fares with the result that its 1980 brocure is useless as well. Finally, P&O Ferries, a relative newcomer to the Channel, has undercut them both with a £35 return fare for a car plus any number of passengers.

P and O does not go out of its way to advertise the £35 fare, since it is terrified of upsetting the travel agents who lose commission as a result. Consequently, P and O calls it a stand-by fare which they review every week, but given the tremendous capacity on the Channel it is rare that travellers canont get on the ferry of their choice and save close to £100 as a result.

Pand O's sensitivity to the attitude of the travel agents, is mirrored to a lesser extent by the other ferry companies and this is one of the reasons why the bargains are so poorly advertised. The best bet for anyone travelling outside the summer is to go to the car ferry terminal at Dover in which all the operators have offices. Within a couple of minutes it will soon become evident which is the best bargain of the day.

Family of four plus car—return fare*

	Normal	Cheapest
P and O	128	35
Sealink	105	40
Townsend	92	40

*fares apply until March 31, for Dover-Calais/Boulogne plus some other routes.

Other people's patches

BY ARTHUR HELLYER

SPRING has arrived and the popular British pastime of visiting other people's gardens is about to recomence. All the guide books are to hand and there is not the slightest indication that the feast prepared for 1980 is one whit less sumptuous than in previous years despite frequent warnings that rising costs of garden maintenance and the acute shortage of skilled labour, especially in the private sector, are creating difficulties that cannot possibly be overcome. Well overcome they have been by one means or another and my impression is that the general standard of maintenance is improving rather than the reverse. In part this may reflect the improvement in mechanical and chemical aids and the greater readiness of the gardening public to make use of them.

The five major bodies concerned with garden opening in Britain are the National Trust, the National Gardens Scheme, the Gardeners' Sunday Organisation, the National Trust for Scotland and Scotland's Gardens Scheme. Of these the National Trust and the National Trust for Scotland have the smallest number of gardens but the greatest number of openings since so many of their gardens are open daily, or at any rate very frequently, from spring to autumn, whereas gardens that open for charity usually do so for one or two days only.

The annual guide book of The National Trust, "Properties Open in 1980," can be obtained for 25p (plus 15p if to be posted) from The National Trust, 42 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AS, or from any National Trust property. Information about The National Trust for Scotland, which looks after 80 properties, a number of which have fine gardens (none better than Crathes Castle and Inverewe, respectively in east and west and two of the most remarkable gardens in the British Isles) is available from the charity's headquarters at 5 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DV.

The National Gardens Scheme headquarters are at 57 Lower Belgrave Street, London, SW1W 0LR and their well known yellow-bound guide-book. "Gardens Open to the Public in England and Wales," costs 50p from newsagents, bookstalls and other retail outlets or 75p by post direct from the NGS office. This year it is bigger than ever, listing nearly 1,500 gardens of which more than 1,200 are privately owned and not normally open to the public. Among them this year is Frogmore, Windsor Castle, laid out in the 19th century for Queen Victoria and still retaining a great deal of its original character.

This emphasis on gardens that could not otherwise be seen is characteristic of all the charitable schemes. The Gardeners' Sunday guide book, "Gardens to Visit," lists over 300 gardens of which a great many open for this charity only. I like the very clear way in which gardens are indicated that are suitable for wheelchairs or to which dogs are admitted if on leads. "Gardens to Visit" has a green cover, costs 30p from newsagents, bookstalls, etc. or 40p including postage from the Organiser, Gardeners' Sunday, White Witches, Claygate Road, Dorking, Surrey. Though the emhasis is on opening gardens on two Sundays, this year May 4 and June 29, when many gardens are at their peak, there are openings throughout the spring and summer, mainly on Sundays but a smaller number on Saturdays, Wednesdays or other days to suit the convenience of garden owners.

Scotland's Garden Scheme has over 200 gardens opening for it this year all listed, with a lot of other useful information, in "Scotland's Gardens" which costs 50p from retail outlets or 70p by post from the General Organiser, Scotland's Garden Scheme, 26, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2EL. There are also two six-day coach tours organised for 1980, one from May 27 to June 1 covering gardens in Dumfries and Galloway, the other from June 26 to July 1 in Fife and central Scotland.

For those who travel widely and like to be able to pinpoint gardens and houses that are open in all parts of the British Isles and for all kinds of purposes, profit-making as well as charitable, "Historic Houses, Castles and Gardens," published by ABC Historic Publications, price 80p and available from all booksellers and newsagents, is invaluable. A copy lives in my car and I would certainly not be without it despite one or two very odd blind spots, such as no mention of Alton Towers, Bicton and Ilnacullin, of which more in a moment. But on the whole, this is the most comprehensive of all the guides, and it picks up some gardens that all the others miss, such as Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal in Yorkshire, owned by the Department of the Environment, and Edzell Castle, Tayside Region, administered by the Secretary of State for Scotland. Each is a gem in its own very different way and I recommend both to anyone interested in historic gardens.

History also enters into Alton Towers and Bicton, but it has not deterred the public, for these are among Britain's most popular gardens. When I first saw the car park at Alton Towers I thought I had strayed by mistake into the Uttoxeter race meeting. It is a remarkable garden by any standards, a kind of neo-Gothic fantasy which must have seemed very odd indeed at the outset but has matured over a century and a half into an exceedingly lovely place of great size so that it absorbs its crowds easily. Bicton is far more restrained, a mixture of classical French terraces and pools with a magnificent Victorian arboretum. Alton Towers is between Uttoxeter and Cheadle, Bicton is south of Exmouth. Both are now run very successfully as amusement parks.

As for Ilnacullin it is one of the most romantic and least publicised gardens in the British Isles, remote on a tiny island in Bantry Bay, Co. Cork, and now the property of the Government of Ireland. Perhaps it is just as well that it remains out of the guide books. Crowds could destroy some of its magic.

The passion for garden visiting has brought a spate of books on gardens, some wide ranging, others dealing with particular sections or aspects. To the latter group belongs Graham Thomas' excellent "Gardens of the National Trust," a weighty volume magnificently illustrated and with a scholarly text by the man who for years was garden adviser and is now garden consultant to The National Trust. It is published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson and costs £9.95. To carry round in the car there is the "Shell Guide to Gardens" which covers gardens open to the public in all parts of the British Isles, is published by Heinemann and costs £2.95.

To give an added stimulus to garden visiting this year Thames Television has prepared a series of seven programmes on the English Garden with Sir John Gielgud as guide. It is to start at 10.00 pm on Tuesday, April 8 and covers garden making from some unspecified date BC to the present day. A book by the script writers, Laurence Fleming and Alan Gore, is to be published by Michael Joseph shortly.

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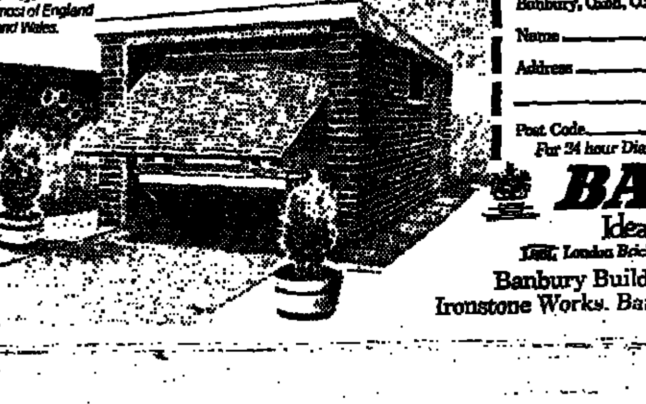
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PATRICK WALTER JOHN HARTIGAN,
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Carter Lane, London EC4V 5AJ,

the Liquidator of the said Company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

Dated this 18th day of March, 1980.
P. W. J. HARTIGAN, Liquidator.

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Dated this 18th day of March, 1980.
P. W. J. HARTIGAN, Liquidator.

Powder eights

WINTER SPORTS

ARTHUR SANDLES

IT WAS as near a perfect end to the season as one could ask. During the evening a light snowfall started and overnight the cover thickened considerably. Morning in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, dawned cold, a little cloudy but by no means forbidding. The new snow covered cars and roofs, promising a good day's skiing.

My guide, a leggy all-American country girl who, it emerged, actually had been born in Heidelberg, had arranged for us both to ride to the mountain top in the ski staff lift at 8 am. Thus, fortified with a good old Wyoming breakfast (which I'd cooked myself on a good old Wyoming stove), I kept our appointment and we headed for the summit.

Jackson Hole is a small resort complex with a great deal of high standard skiing. Its top runs are black and intimidating, its lower terrain more forgiving and its apres ski limited. In ski terms it is reckoned to be the most demanding that the U.S. can offer. Wyoming is cowboy country, where men come tall and tough and the snow is deep and dry.

As we left the lift the wind blew stronger, whipping the new powder over frozen crust beneath. The first few hundred yards from the top at Jackson is steep with the sort of steepness that curves away from you — not the type of terrain that a recreational skier like myself skis well. My guide went off at a joyous speed and, as I followed in more gentle style, there was just time to see her make an elegant fall before I followed suit. We exchange grins, muttered a tennis-style "sorry" and continued.

Within minutes we were in the lee of the mountain, the snow deepened and suddenly it was all fun. Can there be any better skiing than coming down through new powder, criss-crossing each other's trails to form the fabled powder eights?

For half an hour or so we had the mountain to ourselves, a rare skiing luxury these days. Even the ski patrol on its morning rounds found the piste mysteriously marked with new tracks.

A group of keen English skiers would find Jackson an absorbing place, well away from the hustle and bustle of the cities. At night a bit of local rowdiness can be found in the Cowboy Bar in a small township that still boasts boardwalks, but this is a 15 minute drive from the resort itself which, although boasting a discotheque, is an the quiet side.

All very different, in fact, from Aspen, whose flattering ski terrain and frenetic after hours life make it, for me, the most complete ski resort in the world. Aspen Mountain itself has some splendidly tough runs, with one lengthy one ending in a sudden steepening with the graphic title Jackpot, but I prefer the open, speedy stuff of adjacent Snowmass. The British are already moving in. Inghams, Britain's biggest tour operator, is sufficiently encouraged to be planning an enlarged programme next year which will include Jackson, Aspen and Heavenly Valley in California.

Aspen has grown: this week it still seemed its old lovable self.

If there were two areas of the world to which I had to confine my skiing they would be the Trois Vallées in France and Aspen in Colorado. But even they cannot erase magic moments in other places—like the early breakfast and the powder eights in Jackson Hole.

Financial Times snow reports and winter sports column will resume next season.

SNOW REPORTS

EUROPE

St. Anton (Aus.)	60-205 cm	New snow on good base
Courmayeur (It.)	20-520 cm	New snow on good base
Sauze d'Oulx (It.)	55-200 cm	Fresh snow on firm base
Andermatt (Sw.)	70-340 cm	Wet snow on lower runs
Zermatt (Sw.)	100-200 cm	Snowing above 2,000 metres

European reports from Ski Club of Great Britain representatives

THE U.S.

Sugarbush (Vt.)	12-32 ins	Spring conditions. 33 runs open
Stowe (Vt.)	12-38 ins	Spring conditions. 30 runs open
Hunter (NY)	0-50 ins	Packed powder. 16 runs open
Park City (Utah)	26-94 ins	Packed powder. All runs open
Aspen (Col.)	29-83 ins	Packed powder
Squaw Valley (Calif.)	24-60 ins	Packed powder

Figures indicate basic snow depths at top and bottom stations.

SCOTLAND

Cairngorm:	Main runs complete.	New snow on hard base
Glenshee:	Main runs complete.	Wet snow on hard base
Glencoe:	Main runs complete.	New snow on firm base
Lecht:	Main runs most complete.	Wet snow

HOW TO SPEND IT

by Lucia van der Post

Brighten up your Easter

WE BRITISH don't seem to make as much fuss of Easter as other nations. Mostly we content ourselves with the giving of huge amounts of chocolate eggs to children and a rather large lunch on Easter Sunday.

Anybody looking for chocolate won't have any difficulty finding it — local shops all over the country are always full of offerings from our large confectionery companies. However, those who want what I would call adult chocolate, lovely and dark and bitter, will probably not be able to find it so easily. If you are far from a good confectioner, two very famous London ones will deal with postal orders. Bendicks has three branches and will send its dark Bittermints by post 200g for £1.80 (£1.25 p + p). Write to 55, Wigmore Street, London, W1.

Secondly, Charbonnel and Walker, 31 Old Bond Street, London W1, will send boxes with names picked out by means of chocolates decorated with letters or else it can send chocolate animals of all sorts. Prices start at about £6 per pound. For City workers the Merry Paul chain offers a large and unusual selection of confectionery.

Prestat of 40 South Molton Street, London, W1, is most famous for its exquisite truffles, £2.50 for a half-pound box, though they won't be posting for Easter—but of course there are lots of other wonderful things as well, including amazing collections of chocolate fish and mice, and eggs of all sizes, filled with anything you choose.

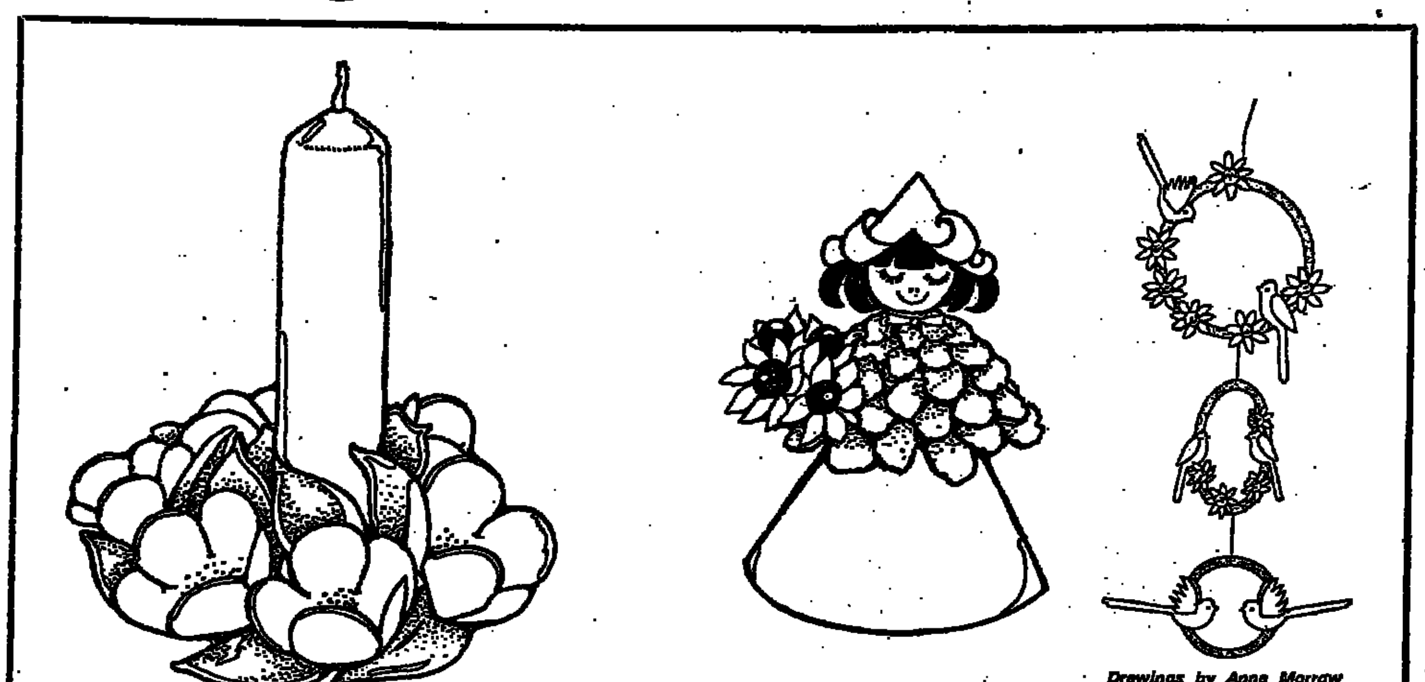
For those who feel chocolate is much too fattening to be able to enjoy freely, there is always the egg as nature designed it—the egg the hen lays. Simple in shape, rich in nutrition, it offers endless opportunities for decorative effect and though I always used to think that getting the children to decorate them would keep them amused for hours, in the end it was I who usually ended up doing the work.

Vegetable dyes must be used if you're going to eat the egg afterwards and these are available all over the country at not much cost. If you want to paint eggs more for decorative effect and aren't worried about eating them you should blow them first (use a needle to make two tiny holes at either end and then blow) and you can use either poster paints or felt pens (much easier to use for producing delicate work).

Londoners who want inspiration on how to decorate their eggs should go along to Barkers of Kensington High Street between 12 noon and 4 pm on April 1 or 2 when Marta Jenkala will be demonstrating the traditional Ukranian method of decorating eggs. She uses the method of marking patterns and motifs in wax and dipping them in dyes.

Joan Cutts makes very elaborate and exotic eggs using the shell as a base which she then encrusts with gems, crystals, braids and shells. She will show how she works at Barkers today, April 3 and 5 between 11 am and 4 pm.

For readers who want to make just a little more of Easter this year here are a few (illustrated) suggestions.



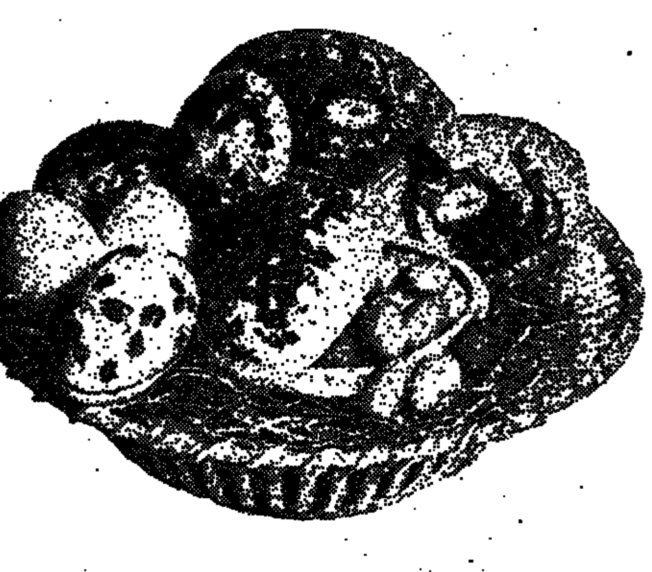
Drawings by Anne Morrow

Traditionally Scandinavians make much more of a fuss over Easter than we do, setting the table in that inimitably Scandinavian way and decorating the house with the sort of enthusiasm that we usually reserve for Christmas. Green and yellow are the Easter colours and Barkers of Kensington has a large collection of traditionally Scandinavian decorations and novelties in these colours all of which are exceptionally pretty.

There are colourful hand-painted wooden eggs from 14p each, of the sort that the Scandinavians hang from branches that they stand in vases. There is a very fresh-looking circle of yellow flowers and green leaves (£2.66, 35p p+p), sketched above left, with a bright yellow matching candle (£1.35, 50p p+p) which would enliven any table.

The tiny doll, sketched above centre, is hand-made from stiff paper and wood and a pine-cone and is the sort of figure used to decorate a tree or mantelpiece or table, £2.05 (19p p+p).

Finally, sketched right, is a very delicate but very pretty little Easter mobile, made from paper in the Easter colours of green and yellow. Handmade in Denmark, it is £2.95 (19p p+p).



A number of our pottery firms nearly always produce some special ideas at Easter time which make splendid presents, particularly for children who either don't like chocolate themselves or whose parents feel that something non-edible might be a good thing. This particular group of china egg boxes left, was photographed at Coleridge of Highgate, 80 Highgate High Street, London N6 but most of the boxes are available in good china shops up and down the country.

Starting clockwise from the box just behind the two real eggs are three boxes by Mason's Ironstone—first the small 'Nabob' egg box, £4.70; then a 'Chartreuse' box for £7.60 and finally a large 'Brocade' box for £9.35. The next example, decorated with Peter Rabbit, is a Wedgwood box for £5.85.

Filled with sugared almonds is a large 'Nabob' egg-box by Mason's Ironstone for £5.85, while the little egg in front of the two real eggs is a Wedgwood design. Decorated with Wild Strawberries, it is £5.65.

IF you're going away for Easter and would like to take a small house present, something that isn't too specifically related to Easter might be more welcome than something that can only be used on a few occasions a year. As egg-cups go I think these glass egg-cups by Holmegaard of Copenhagen are exceedingly elegant and there are two sizes to choose from. The taller egg-cup comes with a spoon, is 6½ ins tall and costs £5.75 while the smaller one is 4 ins tall and costs £5.05.

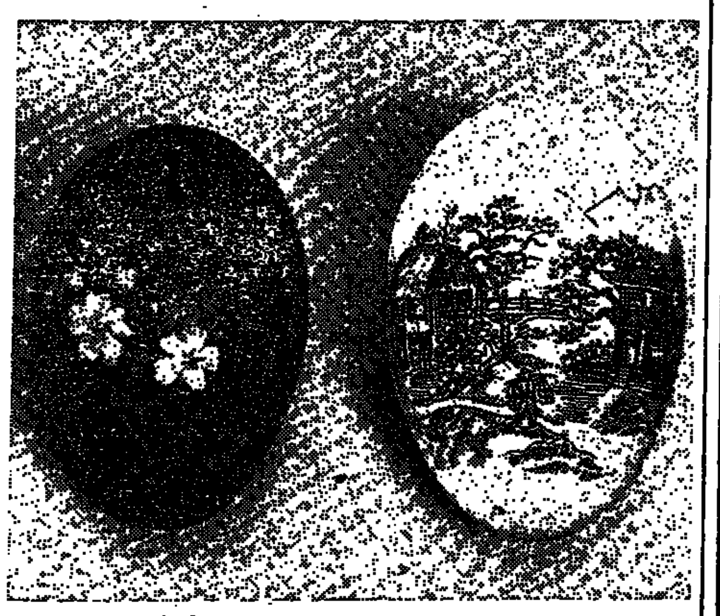
If you wanted to give a couple as an Easter present you could, of course, fill them with a small chocolate egg or even an egg-shaped candle. The egg-cups are available from Rosenthal Studio House, 102, Brompton Road, London SW3, which will post to order. Add 75p postage and packing.

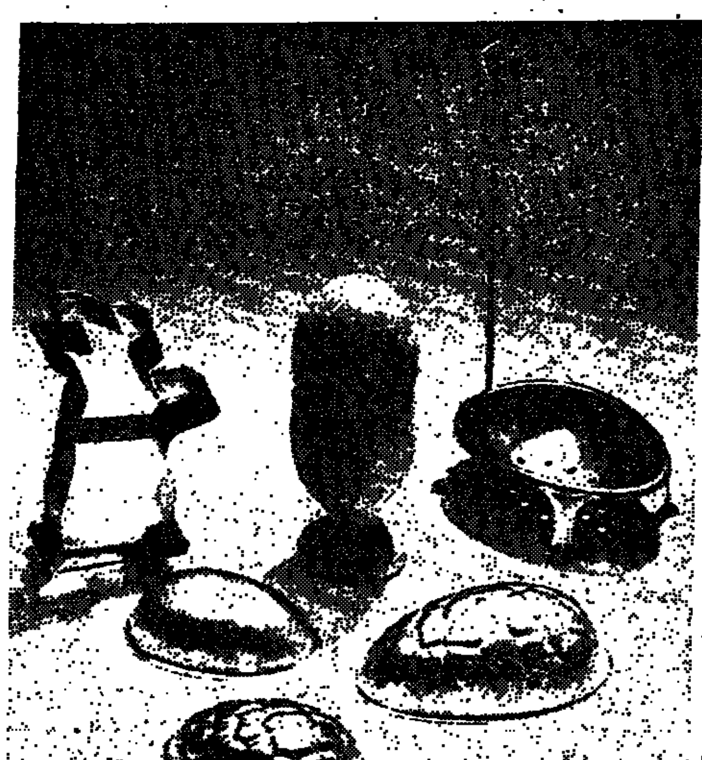
Mary Case paints goose-eggs by hand. She has developed two distinct styles, both of which you can see illustrated right. Near right is a design based on spring flowers from the English countryside. She uses black as the background and then paints the flowers in their natural colours.

The second style that she has developed is inspired by delicate Chinese paintings. The design is outlined in inks and then painted in delicately-shaded watercolours.

Goose eggs are about four inches by two inches but naturally no two are identical. The eggs are all blown first and then hand-painted by Mary Case herself, a process that takes many hours of work.

The eggs can only be ordered directly from her at Witley Vicarage, Godalming, Surrey GU8 5PN. The Chinese painted eggs are £14.95 while the wild flower eggs are £12.95 (50p p+p for either).





As the school holidays are just about upon us, mothers might like to persuade the children to help in the Easter preparations. Elizabeth David of 46 Bourne Street, London, SW1 has a good selection of equipment for making your own Easter eggs, photographed left. The rabbit-shaped pastry cutter, 4½ ins by 2 ins is 90p; the light wood egg-cup (can be hand-painted is 3 ins high and costs 37p; the tinplate egg moulds may be plain (sizes 2¾ ins by 2 ins, 65p; 5½ ins by 3½ ins, £1.95; and 6 ins by 4 ins, £2.35) or else have a crackle finish (two sizes, 2¾ ins by 2 ins for 75p and 3½ ins by 2½ ins for £1.30p). All the above items can be posted for 40p extra. The aluminium egg-poacher is 84p (75p plus p and p).

Postscript

TWO PRACTICAL BOOKS for lovers of home-made quilts have just been published. Much the nicer of the two is *The McCall's Books of Quilts* (published by John Murray at £5.95) which, though a large-sized soft paperback is full of enticing full colour photographs which show just what can be done, as well as precise instructions of how to achieve it. Designs range from the traditional, gentle American originals through to much more modern ideas, including appliqué and quilting.

If you really want to embark on a mammoth work of art the McCall's book will guide you through it all. If, on the other hand, you want to do something much less arduous and are the sort who likes quick results then *The 7-Day Quilt* by Josephine Rogers (published by Mills and Boon, £3.95) might be the book for you. The designs are much simpler, indeed cruder, but they do have the great merit of speed.

Readers in the Midlands who feel that they don't always get their share of the really good shops will no doubt be rejoicing to hear that David Mellor has opened another of his splendid kitchen equipment shops in Manchester at 66, King Street.

The shop at 4 Sloane Square has now been open for some 10 years and in that time has become famous for its selection of well-chosen, functional range of culinary aids, as well as tableware, glassware, rush baskets, and other kitchen accessories.

Besides all manner of kitchen aids there will be a selection of the best of British domestic crafts, like glass from Simon Pearce and pottery from Richard Batterham, John Leach and Russell Collins.

Those who live neither in London nor the Midlands can buy David Mellor's selection by post with the help of his splendidly illustrated catalogue (£1 plus 35p from either of the David Mellor shops).

Cleaner by post

OWNERS of pigskin garments might like to know that The London Suede and Fur Cleaning Company has recently formed a specialist company to take care of the cleaning of all pigskin garments. As one of the largest of our dry-cleaning chains has just stopped handling pigskin it is an address worth noting — The Pigskin Cleaning Company, Eagle Works, 144A Royal College Street, London, NW1. The company offers a complete 100 per cent guarantee.

The system could hardly be easier—on receipt of 50p, the company sends a "post-paid" pack to your home. The pack holds up to three garments and is ready-addressed for returning, all postage paid. Cleaned garments are normally returned within 14-21 days. To give an idea of costs—a coat up to 34 ins long would be £14.50.

Chain Store Special

IT PERHAPS isn't as widely known as it should be that every spring Marks and Spencer has a special home furnishings event when it reduces the price on a wide selection of designs by about 10 per cent. So anybody who is a fan of the home furnishings department should stock up now rather than later in the year if they need either to replace or add to their collection of sheets, duvets or towels.

Ten per cent may not seem a large reduction but it brings the price of the largest bath towel down from £9.99 to £8.99 and of course on more expensive items like a large size (54 ins by 84 ins) Axminster rug the saving is even more—from £42 down to £39. The promotion is on now and lasts until April 14.

Though I can't say I personally like all the designs most people should be able to find something to please them and the range of colours in the plain towels is really very pretty indeed.

A range I do wholeheartedly like is the collection of kitchen accessories, some of which are shown sketched below. In high-quality ABS plastic, in only plain chocolate brown or red, every item seems to have been exceedingly well thought out. For instance almost everybody, surely, could do with a really sturdy colander like the one in the sketch. It sits squarely on the counter and balances across sink or saucepan. Simple but very effective. At £2.99, a good buy.

The canisters all have tight-fitting lids and come in varying sizes. Bowls for holding things or for mixing have rubber discs to prevent them slipping. There is a splendid flour shaker (it's much easier to fill with flour than most versions I've seen), as well as a grater, spice rack, kitchen roll holder and sieve.

The canisters in the picture are £2.99 and £2.50, the set of measuring spoons is 80p. Another very useful kitchen aid is the wall chart (the frame made of the identical chocolate or red ABS plastic) with a cork panel and holders for pencils, note pad, drawings and so on. I have one and we use it every day. Organisation and efficiency for just £4.99!

Easter in store at Fortnum & Mason

Hare with baskets £7.95. Sleeping Rabbit £7.50. Donkey £4.95. Flower Basket with solid eggs £4.95. Easter Egg filled with assorted chocolates £4.95. A selection of hand-moulded plain and blended chocolate animals and eggs from £4.95 per lb. are all available from the First Floor.

FORTNUM & MASON
Piccadilly, London W1A 1ER. Telephone: 01-734 8040.

The 150,000 Page TV Set

From GEC a 26" full remote-control colour television which not only provides normal viewing and Teletext, but Prestel as well, the GPO's computerised information service.

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Prestel is operating now in London, Birmingham, Nottingham, Edinburgh and Glasgow and will soon be spreading to many other parts of the country.

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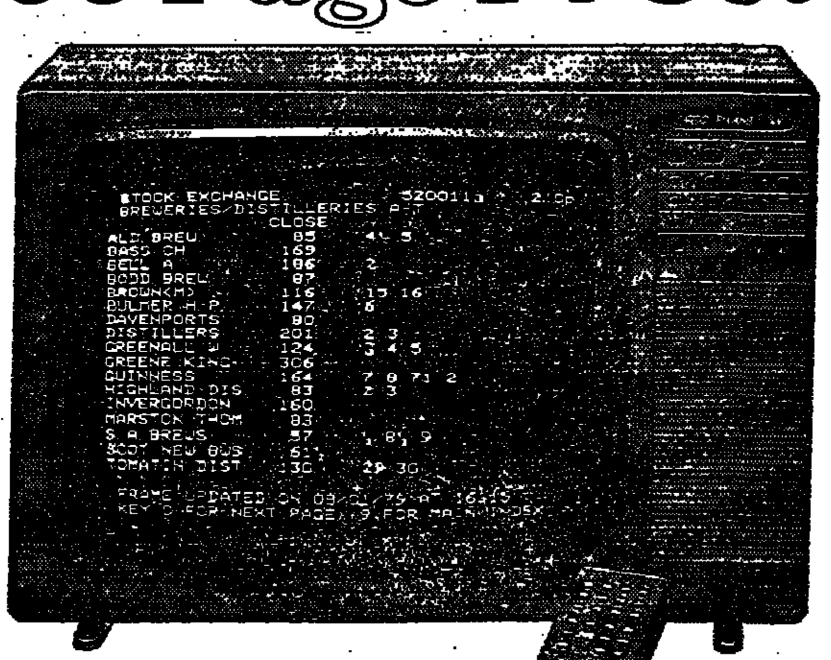

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A DE VERE HOTEL

ARTS

Roots unearthed

BY ANTHONY CURTIS

Radio Orwell is an independent local radio station based in Ipswich serving the Suffolk and North Essex area. Its gets it name from the same river that inspired the old Etonian Eric Blair to call himself George Orwell when he started to write books. Like its namesake the station has a sense of social responsibility and takes an unstarry-eyed look at the problems of contemporary Britain, particularly as these affect working-people. I say this on the strength of the current series of 13 documentary programmes on the state of British industry, commissioned by Radio Orwell through a grant from the IBA, parts of which I have been hearing.

They have been put together, and are being presented, by Kevin D'Arcy under the general title of *The Right To Work*. He has had assistance from Michael Shanks, Chairman of the National Consumer Council, and he has interviewed some 80 people, among them managers, workers, economists and academics. The context of the inquiry is international. There are frequent comparisons with conditions in other countries and speakers from abroad over a wide range of topics involving class, technology, employment patterns, unions, industrial democracy, small companies and intervention by politicians.

Although the programmes are bound to arouse controversy, and are followed by 'phone-ins, the main approach seems to be diagnostic rather than polemical. Thus in the first programme to go out, entitled *The Great Divide*, we heard some sensible observations by Correlli Barnett on the historical reasons for the divisions that persist between management and labour. He attributed some of the trouble to the concept of the council house with its social stigma and tendency to create working-class ghettoes called council estates. The inescapable shadow of the past was felt throughout the whole programme, especially in revealing interviews with Victor Matthews and Jack Dash, both of whom spoke of the bad old days as if they were only yesterday and as if they might easily return. The material of the series is clearly of considerable general interest. It has been offered by Radio Orwell to all the Independent Local Radio stations, and so far has, I gather, been taken by a dozen of them throughout the UK. It is hoped that Londoners may have the opportunity of hearing the series before long.

Sean O'Casey was born 100 years ago in Dublin. The BBC have been celebrating the anniversary with a lively new production of his first play, *The Shadow of a Gunman*, preceded by a talk about his impact on the Irish theatre of his time by Hugh Leonard. O'Casey's golden period was regrettably brief, yielding only three or four plays worth reviving, but what splendid plays they are, as this radio revival made abundantly clear. The spectacle of ordinary working people trying to get on with their lives, their gossiping and their drinking, while all around them is a minefield which may explode at any moment, is one with which we are all too familiar today, not least in Ireland. No playwright ever exploited this situation more richly than O'Casey. Here he put a poet in among the sufferers. His words were spoken resonantly by Bryan Murray, in Robert Cooper's production on Radio 4 UK (March 24).

The other inmates of the Dublin tenement in which the play is set imagine him to be a gunman, and the misconception gives birth to some wry comedy until a raid by the military reveals that it was a much more mundane individual who was the IRA activist. As the critic of the *Irish Times*, Maeve Binchy, said on *Kaleidoscope*, the early scenes are slightly confusing to a radio listener coming to the work for the first time. He hears a babel of Irish voices which it is really impossible to sort out. But once the action settles down to a confrontation between the poet and his room-mate, a pedlar (Alan Devlin), the mist clears. Excellent performances all round from Marcella O'Riordan, Pauline Delany, Vincent McCabe, and Joe McPartland as the statutory drunk.

The writer J. G. Farrell, who died last year, wrote one of his best novels, *Troubles*, about Ireland. Jim Farrell was the subject of a programme on Radio 3 last Monday, *The White-Haired Novelist*, compiled and presented by Derek Mahon. Friends who contributed, including Francis King, Olivia Manning, John and Hilary Spurling, made out a good case for him as a writer concerned with big tragic themes but treating these in a manner that was often hilarious. In this respect he had much in common with O'Casey.

Transport at Covent Garden

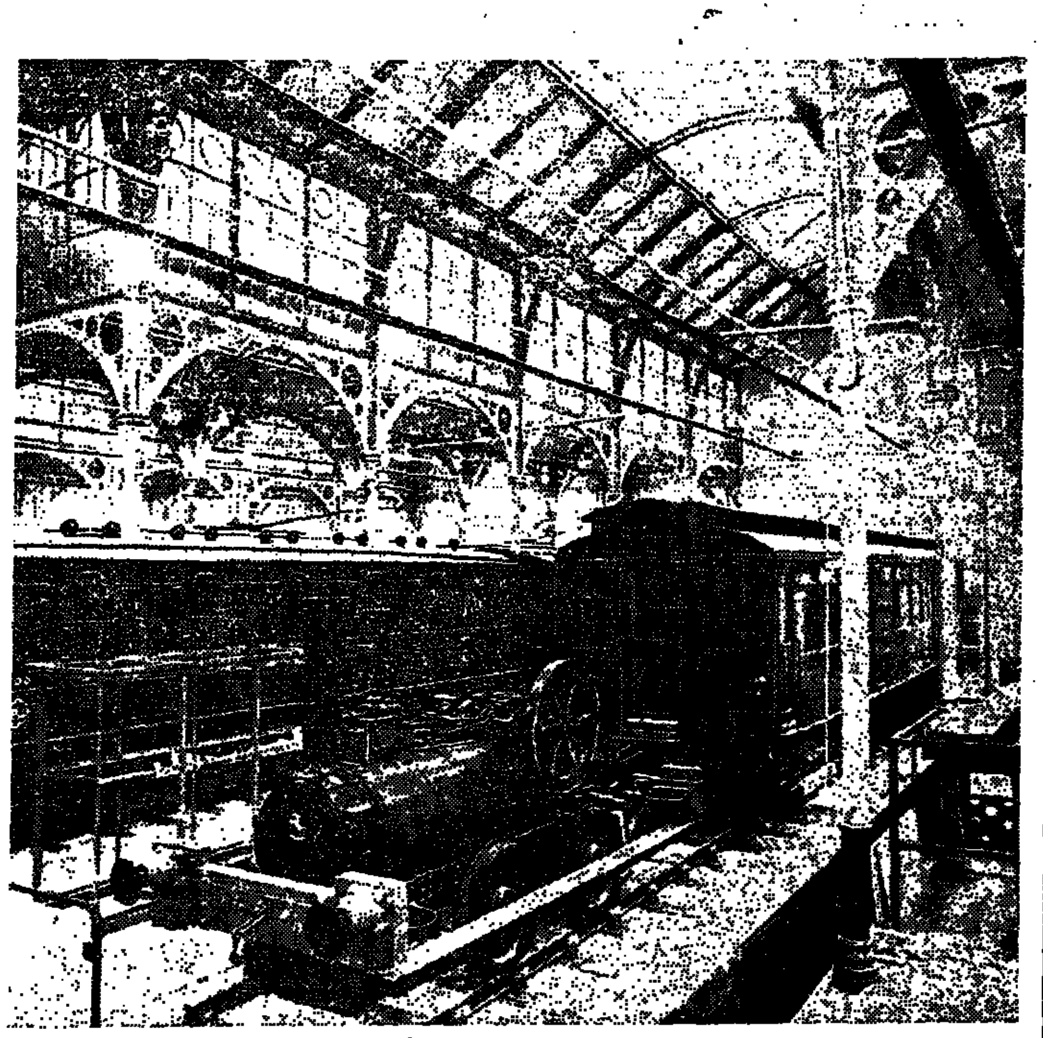
This is a year of transformation for the centre of Covent Garden. The first of the "official" cultural additions to the area opened this week, the new London Transport Museum which is house in the old Flower Market, and there will be trading again in the central Market Buildings by mid-summer. The Opera House extension is on site for phase one and the streets around are filling up with shops and businesses.

Only the splendidly successful Jubilee Hall Sports Centre clouds this sunny picture for the GLC remains committed to its destruction despite vociferous opposition from every quarter and, more important, despite proof that developers could still get the necessary office use onto the site, retaining the Jublee Hall and allowing the 2,000 odd weekly users of the facility continued benefit.

With recent disturbing revelations as to political interference in the listing process where the Jubilee Hall is concerned (t remains unlisted, though it is within a Conservation Area) considerable disquiet is being felt over this most recent of many wrangles over the fate of Covent Garden.

All this is particularly ironic in view of the fact that the *London Transport Museum* has made excellent use of the unlisted covered way which has the adjacent, corner, site to the Jubilee Hall. This too was to have been demolished but London Transport were able to make a case for its incorporation with the Flower Market. It now houses the Tube trains and a reconstructed lift from Hampstead station with its appealing light-hearted touches of *art nouveau* fretwork flowers as ventilators. (Just around the corner at Covent Garden Tube another such lift continues to ferry passengers up into the outside world.)

The transformed Flower Market, a listed building dating from 1887-91, makes a successful museum space. For one thing it has the necessary height and its uncluttered area allows visitors to circulate the exhibits with ease, the explanatory or "interpretive" panels being confined to the outer walls and an upper gallery. Some of the buses, trams and coaches are familiar from Syon, where the collection was formerly housed, others have appeared to implement the selection.



Main structural works on the building concerned the strengthening: of the floors; both to support the massive weight of the objects and to allow the future tenants below stairs (the Theatre Museum) a sense of security. Steel legs were raised from concrete pads and these subterranean works were responsible for a sizeable chunk of the £1½m expended on the museum. The roof was entirely reglazed, reslated and reboarded and the GLC (the landlords) undertook to make the building wind and weather tight, contributing £300,000 of the cost.

One area of specific skill was the repair of cast iron elements in the building; columns had fractured and the legacy of a Zeppelin raid was quite considerable. London Transport architects found a specialist firm, Metal Stitching Ltd., who carried out surgery on the ironwork that wil take the skill of an archaeologist to detect.

The running costs of the museum are to be borne entirely independently; there can be no subsidy from passenger fares, thus there is an entry charge of £1.40 and the museum shop, coffee bar and education facilities have to be run on sound business lines. However, there seems little chance of failure. The museum is far bigger than would appear at first glance; the spaces off and above the main hall give a generous total exhibition floor while the wall-mounted displays are informative and attractively presented.

There is a wealth of esoteric information there, from a historic display of tickets to a poster advertising "hunting in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire." It seems you pushed your horse into a box at the Finchley Road (by 9.00 am), having previously ordered the box from the superintendent of the line, and mounted it on arrival in order to trot to the hunt meeting place. Modern BR problems with bicycles seems small beer in comparison with the organisational complications of such a service.

Architecture and design are accorded due attention in the exhibition, the point being rightly made that the 1930s extension to the Piccadilly Line was one of the most important contributions to inter-war British architecurte. Charles Holden, the architect, and Frank Pick, whose emphatic insistence on the importance of design, were the two figures whose influence stretched far beyond London Transport in the implications of their work.

The sureness of Pick's touch (he joined the Underground in 1906) is demonstrated by the fact that the same alphabet has been used on LT graphics since 1919 and that Henry Beck's diagram of the Tube lines was produced in 1933 and, with modifications, has been retained ever since, while becoming an admired model the world over.

Decked out in pale grey and Indian red the Flower Market looks very fine. For those Parisians who fought and lost the battel for the Baltard pavilions at Les Halles it must come as a reproach to see the rebirth of Covent Garden; for Londoners it is a cause for pride. It is to be hoped that the Jubilee Hall remains intact to complete that satisfactory picture.

GILLIAN DARLEY

Jeremy Menuhin

BY DAVID MURRAY

Even with a 20-minute interval Jeremy Menuhin's recital at the Elizabeth Hall on Thursday was short, shorter still than the programme he had originally promised. The announced Bartok was replaced by the A minor Sonata, K 310, of Mozart. Menuhin played the troubled Allegro maestoso nervily and with shallow tone, and set the elaborated melody of the Andante cantabile in brittle high relief. The final Presto was hasty and indistinct. Honest musical intentions seemed to fall prey to free-floating anxiety.

Though the op. 10 Ballades of Brahms are early pieces, they demand a maturity and a tonal weight that Menuhin does not command. Little of their gravity could be felt; they shrank under his fingers, their long pulses afflicted by instability. As in the Schubert Sonata later, the composer's most emphatic rests at phrase-ends could not dissuade the pianist from joining everything to everything else in legato passages, and it all rolled limply out. The *mezza voce* coda of the last piece was distinguished by being played rather louder than the rest.

There was more energy and more controlled feeling in the Schubert—the late, magnificent C minor Sonata—but hardly enough for the measure of the piece. Menuhin's pedalling gave trouble: again and again, one chord did not replace another, but was rather superimposed upon it, to cumulatively distressing effect. The Adagio was all confusion, innocently senseless. I was about to write that Menuhin drove a coach and horses through Schubert's *dynamic markings*, but the offending vehicle was something more like a tricycle: nothing violently wrong-headed, just young and terribly unready.

LSO/Berglund

BY PAUL DRIVER

Sibelius is a conductor's composer. Never before him had change of tempo, *movement* — with its double sense of rhythmic action and unit of structure on which Sibelius obsessively puns — been invested with such deeply functional significance. In renewing the classical symphony he transformed Beethoven's rhythmic leverage into a volatile force whose effectiveness completely eluded Stravinsky for one, and which presages, rather, the large-scale metrical innovations of an Elliott Carter.

Paavo Berglund is the ideal interpreter: intelligent, passionate; alert to the astonishing though discreet modernity of the scores but equally to their commanding symphonic pedigree; with a beat both nervous and expansively powerful, capable of a wonderful plastic moulding and never lapsing into anyone's but Sibelius's rubato. Thursday night's packed-out all Sibelius programme at the Festival Hall found him at his best in such things as sustaining the momentum of the Fifth symphony's first movement scherzo-half while always highlighting the part-writing; in making the mobile tempi of the slow movement effortlessly dilate and contract; in securing warmth and precision even through the shattering close. It was certainly a great performance.

Hardly falling below was the reading of *Pohjola's Daughter* op 49, one of Sibelius's miraculously elliptical symphonic poems. From the opening extended stringendo to the abruptly evenascent end in "mystic peace" (reminiscent of the terminating fade of *Moses and Aaron*), every organic detail was given its proper breadth and power. Often dense argument came over luminously and with no loss in excitement. One's only disappointment in the concert was an exacting but too measured account of the first movement of the Violin Concerto (it needs to flow quickly), and Ida Haendel's marginal insufficiency of tone throughout that work which invariably held back her agile, thoughtful playing at just the moments that mattered most.

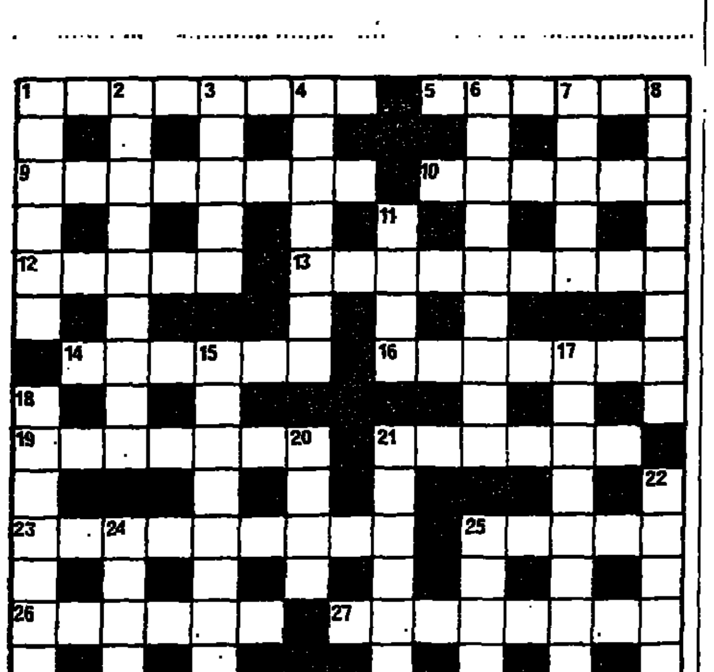
F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 4,238

A prize of £5 will be given to each of the senders of the first three correct solutions opened. Solutions must be received by next Thursday, marked Crossword in the top left-hand corner of the envelope, and addressed to the Financial Times, 10 Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY. Winners and solution will be given next Saturday.

Name ....

Address ....

....



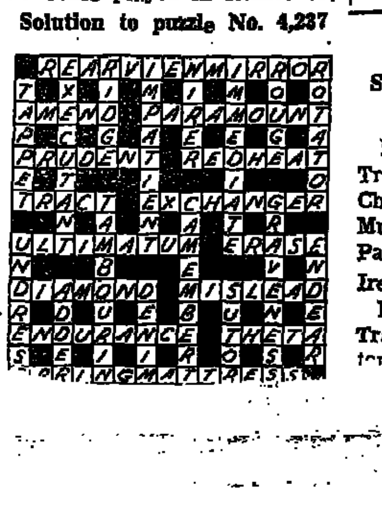
ACROSS

1 Limit the movement of soldiers, regular (8)
5 Stop and drink (6)
9 Article of furniture for trophy given to directors (8)
10 A signature that's transverse (6)
12 Guide I left in vessel (5)
13 Horse's home? It's a hoax! (5-4)
14 Package that's soft and unusually clear (6)
16 Buoyant supporter putting poles in club (7)
19 Chatter with first of nurses for example (7)
21 Turn back big good French ape (6)
23 Wander around it in time to take note (9)
25 Vital liquid in first half of team in conflict (5)
26 French malignity I caught initially (6)
27 To mark with consecutive numbers and upset pet again (8)
28 Turn to return in speed (6)
29 People agree in the mind (8)

DOWN

1 I creep around to produce a formula (6)
2 Entreating to drink before bending (9)
3 Plant around pole in bed (5)
4 Sweet article in Israeli mountain (7)
6 Fool a bird's hairdresser (9)
7 Peg in pothole (5)
8 Holding back this neat mixture (8)
11 Flower of one's eye (4)
15 Sounds like the most merciless embroiderer (9)
17 Deficiency could be a little drop (9)
18 Odds on wrong horse being a jumper (8)
20 Tidy young beast (4)
21 Badly angered by Tommy's pineapple? (7)
22 Put fish in to cook without restraint (6)
24 Entrance at home to lease (5)
25 Game played in silence (5)

Solution to puzzle No. 4,237



TV Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

9.05 am Baggy Pants and the Nitwits. †9.30 Champion, the Wonder Horse. 9.55 Gymnast. †10.20 Zorro. 10.45 Mickey Mouse Club. †11.05 "Who Done It?" starring Benny Hill. 12.27 pm Weather.

12.30 The Grand National in a special edition of Grandstand: 12.30 The scene is set; 1.35 21 Years of the National; 2.00 The Sun Ratings Steeplechase; 2.10 The Fancied Runners; 2.20 Meet the Jockeys; 2.35 The Sun Templegate Hurdle Race; 2.45 Final Check; 3.20 The Sun Grand National Steeplechase (Handicap); 4.30 The jockey's stories; Football Focus (12.45); Athletics (1.10) The Martin Luther King Games; Rugby League (3.50) The State Express Challenge Cup—Semi-final: Hull v Widnes; 4.40 Final Score.
5.10 The Pink Panther Show.
5.30 News.
5.40 Sport/Regional News.
5.45 Rolf on Saturday OK?
6.20 Wonder Woman.
7.10 All Creatures Great and Small.
8.00 The Little and Large Show.
8.35 Dallas.
9.25 News.
9.35 Match of the Day Special: 9.38 Two-match Football League action; 10.30 The Sun Grand National Steeplechase (highlights).
10.45 Saturday Night at the Mill.
†11.35 Phil Silvers as Sergeant Bilko.

All Regions as BBC1 except as follows:

Cymru/Wales — 5.40-5.45 pm Sports News Wales. 12.00 News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—4.55-5.10 pm Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Scoreboard. 9.35-10.45 Sportscene. 12.00 News and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland—3.50-4.30 pm (Grandstand) International Cross Country. 5.00-5.10 Scoreboard. 5.40-5.45 Northern Ireland News. 12.00 News and Weather for Northern Ireland.

England—5.40-5.45 pm (South West only) Spotlight Sport.

BBC 2

7.40 am-2.20 pm Open University.
2.35 Matt the Gooseboy.
3.45 Chopsticks.
4.10 Saturday Cinema: "Ten Thousand Bedrooms" starring Dean Martin.
6.00 Horizon.
6.50 Trail and Sail.
7.15 News and Sport.
7.30-10.50 "Lucrezia Borgia" (simultaneous with Radio 3 stereo) Donizetti's Opera starring Joan Sutherland, live from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, including 8.15-8.40 "Chronicle" film: "The Legend of the Borgias. 9.25-8.45 Interview with Joan Sutherland and her husband Richard Bonygne.
10.50 News On 2.
†10.55 Midnight Movie: "The Clouded Yellow" starring Jean Simmons and Trevor Howard.

LONDON

8.40 am Sesame Street. 9.40 The Beachcombers. 10.05 Superman. 10.30 Tiswas.
12.30 pm World of Sport: 12.35 On the Ball; 1.00 International Sports Special (Part 1) Rowing—the Women's Boat Race Oxford v Cambridge from Henley; 1.15 News; 1.20 The ITV Seven—1.30, 2.00, 2.30 and 3.00 from Salisbury; 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 from Ayr; 3.10 International Sports Special (Part 2) Tennis — Avon Women's Championship Final from Madison Square Garden, New York; 3.50 Half-time Soccer Round-up; 4.00 Wrestling; 4.50 Results Service.
5.05 News.
5.15 Dick Turpin.
5.45 Mind Your Language.
6.15 Stars in Action: "The Battle of the River Plate" starring John Gregson, Anthony Quayle and Peter Finch.
8.30 Enemy at the Door.
9.30 News.
9.45 Tales of the Unexpected.
10.15 Hart to Hart.
11.10 Boxing: WBC Light-Heavweight Championship — Matthew Saad Muhammad v John Conteh from Atlantic City.
12.30 am Close: Personal choice with Ray Smith.

All IBA Regions as London except at the following times:

ANGLIA

9.40 am Tarzan. 5.45 pm Sale of the Century. 6.15 Saturday Film: "Stranger on the Run," starring Henry Fonda. 8.00 Love Thy Neighbour. 12.30 am At the End of the Day.

ATV

9.10 am A Better Read. 9.35 Catch '79. 10.00 Solo One. 5.45 pm Mork and Mindy. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Saturday Cinema: "The Molly Maguires," starring Richard Harris, Sean Connery and Samantha Eggar.

BORDER

9.10 am A Better Read. 9.35 Healthy Eating. 10.00 Friends of Man. 5.15 pm Mork and Mindy. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Saturday Night at the Movies: "The Devil at Four O'Clock," starring Frank Sinatra and Spencer Tracy. 12.10 am Pro Celebrity Darts.

CHANNEL

5.14 pm Puffin's Pla(i)ce. 5.18 Mork and Mindy. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Saturday Action Adventure: "San Francisco International Airport." 8.00 A Better Read.

GRAMPIAN

9.30 am Sesame Street. 5.45 pm The Incredible Hulk, followed by Highland League and Shinty Results. 6.46 The Saturday Action Film: "The Day of the Evil Gun," starring Glenn Ford, Arthur Kennedy and Dean Jagger. 12.30 am Seachd Laithean. 12.45 Reflections.

GRANADA

9.30 am A Better Read. 9.55 Larry the Lamb. 10.05 Fangface. 5.45 pm Chips. 6.45 Saturday Film: "Doctor at Sea." 12.30 The Late Film: George Hamilton in "The Strange Possession of Mrs. Oliver."

HTV

9.10 am Numbers at Work. 9.40 Divorce and After. 10.05 Beachcombers. 5.15 pm Happy Days. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Saturday Cinema: "The Molly Maguires."

HTV Cymru/Wales—As HTV West/HTV General Service except: 5.15-5.45 pm Sion a Sian.

SCOTTISH

9.10 am A Better Read. 9.35 Fantasy Island. 5.45 pm Chips. 6.45 How the West was Won—"The Slavers." 12.30 am Late Call.

SOUTHERN

8.45 am Talking Bikes. 9.10 Sesame Street. 10.02 Regional Weather Forecast. 10.05 Fangface. 5.15 pm Happy Days. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 "The Swiss Family Robinson." 8.00 Love Thy Neighbour. 12.30 am Southern News.

TYNE TEES

9.00 am Saturday Shake-Up. 9.05 Space 1999. 9.55 Saturday Shake-Up. 10.05 Solo One. 10.30 Saturday Shake-Up. 10.50 The Saturday Movie: "Pine Canyon is Burning." 12.20 pm Saturday Shake-Up. 5.15 Happy Days. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 "Waterloo," starring Rod Steiger and Christopher Plummer. 12.30 am Epilogue.

ULSTER

9.30 am A Better Read. 9.55 Larry the Lamb. 10.05 Fangface. 10.30 Salvage 1. 11.30 Sesame Street. 5.00 pm Sports Results. 5.15 Happy Days. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Feature Film: "Gunfight at The OK Corral," starring Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas and Rhonda Fleming. 8.44 Ulster Weather.

WESTWARD

9.20 am Look and See. 9.25 Sesame Street. 10.25 Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 12.27 pm Westward News. 5.14 Westward News and Sports Results. 5.18 Mork and Mindy. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Saturday Action Adventure: "San Francisco International Airport." 8.00 Saturday Night in the West. 12.00 Barney Miller. 12.30 am Faith for Life. 12.35 West Country Weather and Shipping Forecast.

YORKSHIRE

9.00 am Rocket Robin Hood. 9.15 Beachcombers. 9.40 Space 1999. 5.15 pm Happy Days. 5.45 Dick Turpin. 6.15 Saturday Action Adventure: "Gunfight at the OK Corral."

RADIO 1

(S) Stereophonic broadcast. ‡ Medium wave

5.00 am As Radio 2. 7.00 News. 7.03 Playground. 8.00 Tony Blackburn. 10.00 Peter Powell. 1.00 pm Adrian Juste (S). 2.00 Paul Gambaccini (S). 4.00 Rock On Saturday (S). 7.30 Steve Wright. 10.00 Al Matthews. 12.00-6.00 am As Radio 2.

RADIO 2

5.00 am News Summary. 5.02 Tom Edwards (S). 8.03 Racing Bulletin. 8.05 David Jacobs with Star Sounds (S). 10.02 Pete Murray's Saturday Show (S). 1.02 pm The News Huddlines. 1.30-6.00 Sport On 2. Grand National Special (1.30, 1.55, 2.20, 3.05, 4.50, 5.25, 5.45); League Football (1.30, 1.45, 2.15, 2.45, 3.10, 3.45, 3.55, 4.42, and at 5.00, 5.45 classified check); World Title Boxing (1.30, 2.20, 5.35); Rugby Union (1.30, 1.50, 2.25, 3.00, 3.40, 4.50, 5.30) semi-finals of the John Player Cup and Welsh Cup; Sports Report (5.00). 6.03 Pop Over Europe. 7.02 Three in a Row. 7.30 Big Band Special (S). 8.02 Saturday Night is Gala Night (S). 9.00 The New Swingle Singers (S). 9.30 Joe Loss in Band Parade (S). 10.02 Sentimental Journey (S). 11.02 Sports Desk. 11.10 Bob Kilbey with The Late Show (S), including 12.00 News, 2.02-6.00 am You and the Night and the Music (S).

RADIO 3

†7.55 am Weather. 8.00 News. 8.05 Aubade (S). 9.00 News. 9.05 Record Review (S). 10.15 Stereo Release (S). 11.15 Bandstand (S). 11.45 Diversions (S). 1.00 pm News. 1.05 Early Music Forum (S). 2.00 Play It Again (S). 5.00 Jazz Record Requests (S). 5.45 Critics' Forum. 6.35 The Organ Works of J. S. Bach (S). 7.30 "Lucrezia Borgia" (simultaneous with BBC 2 television) opera by Donizetti (S), including 8.15-8.40 Adultery in the Novel (study by Harold Beaver), 9.25-9.45 Reflections on Iran (talk by Ian Grimble). 10.50 A Pleasant Place. 11.15 Music for Lute (S). 11.55-12.00 News.

VHF only—6.00-8.00 am Open University.

RADIO 4

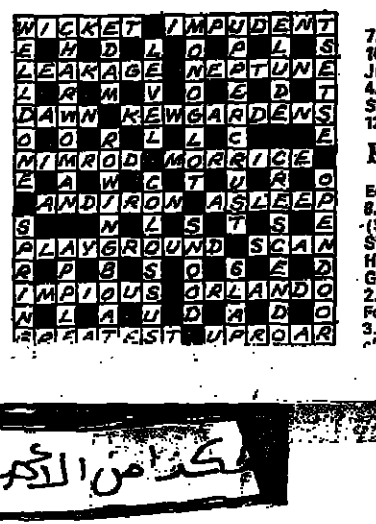
6.25 am Shipping Forecast. 6.30 News. 6.32 Farming Today. 6.50 Yours Faithfully. 6.55 Weather; Programme News. 7.00 News. 7.10 On Your Farm. 7.40 Today's Papers. 7.45 Yours Faithfully. 7.50 It's A Bargain. 7.55 Weather; Programme News. 8.00 News. 8.10 Sport On 4. 8.46 Today's Papers. 8.50 Yesterday in Parliament. 9.00 News. 9.05 Breakaway. 9.50 News Stand. 10.05 The Week in Westminster. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Pick of the Week. 11.35 International Assignment. 12.00 News. 12.02 pm Money Box. 12.27 The News Quiz (S). 12.55 Weather; Programme News. 1.00 News. 1.10 Any Questions? 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News. 2.05 Wildlife. 2.30 Saturday-Afternoon Theatre. 3.30 Does He Take Sugar? 4.00 News. 4.02 Changing Places. 4.30 Time for Verse. 4.40 Man of Brass (interview with Harry Mortimer). 5.25 Week Ending. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 5.55 Weather; Programme News. 6.00 News. 6.15 Desert Island Discs with Donald Pleasence. 6.55 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson. 7.35 Baker's Dozen (S). 8.30 Saturday-Night Theatre. 9.58 Weather. 10.00 News. 10.15 Kaleidoscope. 11.00 Four Stages of Liberation: For Passover—The message of the Exodus. 11.15 Come to the Opera (S). 12.00 News.

SOLUTION AND WINNERS OF PUZZLE No. 4,232

Mr. G. K. Grigg, "Two Trees," Creek End, Bishbourne, Chichester; PO19 3JS.

Mr. H. Taverner, 82, Maryville Park, Belfast BT9 6LQ, Northern Ireland.

Mr. P. P. Thomas, Westbury Travers, Tunstead Road, Hoveton, Norwick NP12 3QN.



TV RATINGS w/e March 23

UK TOP TWENTY (viewers m)

1	All Creatures Great and Small (BBC)	17.75
2	Jim'll Fix It (BBC)	17.30
3	Dallas (BBC)	17.00
4	This is Your Life (Thms.)	16.95
4	The Little and Large Show (BBC)	16.95
6	Coronation St. (Wed.) (Gran.)	16.30
7	Coronation St. (Mon.) (Gran.)	15.85
8	Play Your Cards Right (LWT)	15.80
9	Crossroads (Wed.) (ATV)	15.25
10	Life Begins at Forty (Yorks.)	15.10

Figures prepared by the Audits of Great Britain for the Joint Industry Committee for Television Advertising Research (JICTAR).

CHESS SOLUTIONS

Solution to Position No. 313

1 BxP ch! KxB; 2 R-R4 ch, K-N1 (K-N3; 3 R-N3 ch, K-B3; 4 N-Q5 ch); 3 N-Q5! Q-B4 (QxQ; 4 N-K7 mate); 4 P-QN4, QxR ch; 5 QxQ with a winning lead in material—but the game ended with the white king in a mating net on the KR file from Black's rook, knight and KBP.

Solution to Problem No. 313

1 R-G1, KxN; 2 Q-R1, or if KxKP; 2 Q-N8, or if KxBP; 2 Q-QR8, or if K-B5; 2 N-B4.

Entertainment Guide

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM. Credit cards 240 5258. Reservations 836 3161. Evgs. 7.30. Mat Sats 2.30. LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET. Today: The Sleeping Beauty. Today: Loeber/Tom van Cauwenbergh. Ton't: Evdokimova/Kage.

COVENT GARDEN. CC. S. 240 1066 (Gardencharge credit cards 836 6903.) THE ROYAL OPERA Ton't & Thu 7.30: Lucrezia Borgia. Mon & Thu 7.30: The Rake's Progress. THE ROYAL BALLET Wed 7.30: The Four Seasons/Gloria/The Concert. 65 Amphi. seats avail. for all perfs. from 10 am on day of perf. (except Proms).

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, Rosebery Ave. EC1. 837 1672. CC 837 3856. BALLET RAMBERT. Tonight 7.30: Sidewalk, Smiling Immortal, Ziggurat.

THEATRES

ADELPHI. CC. S. 01-836 7611. Evgs. at 7.30. Sat. 4.0 and 7.45. Mats. Thurs. 3.0. One perf. Good Fri. 7.30. TONY BRITTON, PETER BAYLISS & ANNA NEAGLE in THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL MY FAIR LADY. Good seats avail. for most perfs. Now booking up to Oct. 1980. Credit Card Hotline 01-836 7358. Liz Robertson returns from holiday on Mon., March 31.

ALBERY. S. From 9 am. 01-836 3878. CC. 379 6565. Group Bkgs. 836 3962. Evs. 7.45. Mat. Thur. & Sat. 4.00 OLIVER GEORGE LAYTON. HELEN SHAPIRO. CHILD FREE with each ADULT valid 16 years or under at time of purchase.

ALDWYCH. S. CC. 836 6404. Info. 836 5332. ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY. THE GREEKS final performances. Evgs. 7.30. Fri. 6.00. Sat. complete trilogy. Ton't Part 2 THE MURDERS (sold out). Tomor. Pt. 3 THE GODS (sold out). RSC also at The Warehouse and at Piccadilly Theatre. Postal booking now open for new London season. Personal booking opens Wed. TWELFTH NIGHT, THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR, THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF NICHOLAS NICKLEBY.

AMBASSADORS. S. CC. 01-836 1171. Mon.-Fri. 8.00. Saturday 5.00 & 8.00. EMLYN WILLIAMS as Dylan Thomas GROWING UP. Final week of season.

APOLLO THEATRE. CC. S. 01-437 2663. Parties 01-379 6061. The highly acclaimed production BEFORE THE PARTY transfers from The Queen's April 21. See Queen's for perfs.

ARTS THEATRE. 01-836 2132. Tom Stoppard's Dirty Linen. Mon.-Thurs. 8.30. Fri. & Sat. 7.00 & 9.15. NOW IN ITS FOURTH YEAR. Lowest-priced best seats in London. Plus 15p temp-member. Special terms for parties.

ASTORIA. CC. S. 01-734 4291. 01-439 8031. 01-734 4369. Mon. to Thurs. 8.00. Fri. and Sat. 6.10 and 8.50 IPI TOMBI. 5th GREAT YEAR. Lowest Priced Musical in the West End. Seats £2, £3, £4, £5. Reduced rate Group Booking 01-839 3092 (special offers). Easter Holiday perfs. Good Fri. 6.10 and 8.50. Easter Mon. 8 pm.

BOULEVARD TH. at the Raymond Revuebar Walker's Court, Brewer Street. CC. Tel. 01-437 2661. PAUL RAYMOND'S PRESENT America's Sex Queen Live on Stage. MARILYN CHAMBERS. Must end April 5 prior to American tour. Twice nightly Mon.-Sat. 8.0 and 10 pm.

CAMBRIDGE. 01-836 6056. Credit cards accepted. 01-836 7040. Mon. to Fri. 8.00 Thurs. 3.00, Sat. 5.00 & 8.30. THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL. VOTED BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR CHICAGO ELIZABETH SEAL. JENNY LOGAN. COLIN BENNETT. DON FELLOWS. HOPE JACKMAN. G. LYONS. Reduced price for parties. 379 6061. 836 6056. Student Nurses, OAPs Standby £1.50. Good Fri. & Easter Mon. at 8.00.

COCHRANE TH. CHARLIE DRAKE in UBU by Spike Milligan directed by Charles Marowitz. Mon-Fri 8. Sat 5 & 8.30. Bkgs. 242 7040. Half price prev Ton't. Opens Mon at 7.

COMEDY THEATRE. CC. 930 7578. Mon.-Sat. 9.00 Mat. Fri. and Sat. 6.30. THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061.

CRITERION. 930 3216. CC. Bookings 379 6565. Group bkgs. 836 3962. Evgs. 8.00. Sats. 5.30 and 8.30. Thurs. Mat. 3.00 PRICES MON-THUR. £2, £3, £4. NEIL SIMON'S COMEDY LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS.

DUCHESS TH. S. CC. 01-836 8243. Red. price Prevs. 15 Apr. Opens 16 Apr. MARIA AITKEN, MICHAEL JAYSTON in Noel Coward's PRIVATE LIVES.

DUKE OF YORK'S. CC. 836 9122. GLENDA JACKSON ROSE. A new play by Andrew Davies. Evgs. 8.00. Mats. Wed. 3.00. Sats. 5.00.

FORTUNE. S. CC. 01-836 2238. Opens Thursday 7.0. Subs. 7.30. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 4.30 & 8.00. DR FAUSTUS cast includes JAMES AUBREY and PATRICK MAGEE. Mon. to Thurs. & Sat. Mats. £4, £3, £2.50. Fri. & Sat. £5, £4, £3.

GARRICK. CC. 01-836 4601. Evgs. 8.00 (sharp). Fri. and Sat. 5.30 and 8.30. Gareth Hunt in DEATHTRAP.

GLOBE THEATRE. S. CC. 01-437 1592. Group sales 379 6061. Evgs. 8.00. Mat. Wed. 3.00. Sat. 5.00 and 8.15. Beryl Reid, Barry Foster, Peter Bowles, Ian Waters in a new play by Peter Nichols BORNE IN THE GARDENS. Directed by [illegible]

GREENWICH THEATRE. S. CC. 58 7755. Evenings 8.00. Mats. Sat. 2.30 PRIVATE LIVES by Noel Coward. MARI AITKEN. MICHAEL JAYSTON.

HAYMARKET THEATRE. CC. 01-930 9832. Evgs. 8.00. Mat. Wed. 2.30. Sat. 4.30 and 8.00. DOROTHY TUTIN. DONALD PLEASENCE. REFLECTIONS. A new play by John Peacock.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. 01-930 6606. Keith Michell, Julia McKenzie, Mark Wynter, Ann Beach in the Award Winning Broadway Musical ON THE 20TH CENTURY. Evgs. 8.00. Matinees Weds. 3. Sats. 4. Good Friday one special perf. at 8.00.

KING'S HEAD. 01-226 1916. Dnrs. 7. Show 8.00. CATCHPENNY TWIST by Stewart Parker.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH. 01-741 2311. West End Box Office 836 4207. Eves 7.30. Thur Mat 2.30. Sats 5 & 8.15. No perf Good Fri. MAKE AND BREAK by Michael Frayn. Cast includes Leonard Rossiter & Prunella Scales.

LYRIC STUDIO: Eves 8. Sts 8.30. No perf Good Fri. FOCO NOVO Woyzeck by George Buchner. Director Neil Johnston, cast includes Karl Johnson & Gwyneth Strong.

Late Night Show: THE HAPPY HOUR. Jonathan Adams & his orchestra. Ton't at 10.45.

LYRIC THEATRE. CC. 01-437 3686. Group Sales 379 6061. Evgs. 8 Wed. 3. Sat. 5 and 8. Good Fri. perf. at 8. RICHARD BRIERS, PAUL EDDINGTON in MIDDLE AGE SPREAD. COMEDY OF THE YEAR. WEST END THEATRE AWARDS.

MAY FAIR. S. CC. 01-629 3036. Mon.-Thur. 8. Fri., Sat. 6, 8.45. SUSANNAH YORK, DANIEL MASSEY, DONALD PICKERING, FRANCIS WHITE in APPEARANCES by Simon Burrows, after Henry James.

NATIONAL THEATRE. S. CC. 928 2252. OLIVIER (open stage): Ton't & Mon 7.30 OTHELLO by Shakespeare. LYTTELTON (proscenium stage): Today 3.00 & 7.45 DEATH OF A SALESMAN by Arthur Miller (not Thee & Me as originally scheduled). Mon 7.45 When We Are Married. COTTESLOE (small auditorium—all tkts £3. Student standby £1.20): Mon to Sat 5.30 THE ICEMAN COMETH Eugene O'Neill's epic masterpiece (last 5 hrs incl 30 min foodbreak). Excellent cheap seats from 10 am day of perf all 3 theatres. Car park. Restaurant 928 2033. Credit card bkgs 928 3052.

OLD VIC. 928 7616. Nimrod Theatre of Australia THE CLUB by David Williamson. "Blissfully funny." The Times. Until April 12. Evgs 7.30. Sat. Mat. 2.30.

PALACE. CC. 01-437 6834. Mon.-Thurs. 8.00. Fri., Sat. 6.00 and 8.40. JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR. Group sales 01-379 6061. LAST FIVE MONTHS. 2 perfs. Good Fri. 6.00 and 8.40.

PALLADIUM. CC. 01-437 7373. YUL BRYNNER in RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S THE KING AND I also starring VIRGINIA McKENNA. HOTLINE 01-437 2055. Evenings 7.30. Mats. Wed. and Sat. 2.45. Special perf. Good Fri. 7.30. Patrons please note mat perfs commence 2.15 from April 2.

PHOENIX THEATRE. CC. S. 01-836 2294. OPENING APRIL 10 at 7.0. The new romantic stage musical THE UMBRELLAS OF CHERBOURG. HALF-PRICE PREVIEWS FROM APRIL 1. Group Sales Box Office 01-379 6061.

PICCADILLY. From 9 am 437 4506. CC bkgs 379 6565. Grp bkgs 836 3962. Royal Shakespeare Company in two smash-hit productions: Pam Gems' epic play PIAF Today 4.00 & 8.00 (eve sold out). Mon 7.30 Tues 4.00 & 7.30. With Jane Lapotaire winner of 3 awards; and Hart and Kaufman's award-winning comedy ONCE IN A LIFETIME Wed 7.30, Thurs 2.30 & 7.30, Sat 4.00 & 8.00. PIAF plays Fri thru' Tues all wks, all other perfs LIFETIME. RSC also at Aldwych & Warehouse Theatres.

PRINCE EDWARD. CC. 01-437 6877. Evgs 8.00. Mat. Thurs. & Sat. 3.00. EVITA by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Directed by Harold Prince. Group sales Box Office 379 6061.

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. 930 8681. Credit card bookings 930 0846. An Evening with TOMMY STEELE and his Company. Evgs. Mon.-Thur. 8.30. Fri. and Sat 6.00 & 8.30. Closed for Holidays March 31 to April 5. Reopens Monday April 7.

QUEEN'S. S. CC. 01-734 1166. Parties 01-379 6061. Mon.-Fri. 8.00. Wed. 3.00. Sat 5.00, 8.15 (incl. East. wk). JANE ASHER, MICHAEL GOUGH, PHYLLIS CALVERT in BEFORE THE PARTY by Rodney Ackland. Story by W. Somerset Maugham. Directed by TOM CONTI. "Beautiful performances." FT.

RAYMOND REVUEBAR. CC. 01-734 1593. At 7.00, 9.00, 11.00 pm. Opens Suns. PAUL RAYMOND presents THE FESTIVAL OF EROTICA. New Acts. New Girls. New Thrills. 23rd sensational year. Fully air-conditioned.

ROUND HOUSE. 01-267 2564. OPENS APRIL 7th. ONLY IN AMERICA. Devised by Ned Sherrin on songs of Leiber & Stoller.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE UPSTAIRS. 730 2554. LAUGH, I SHOULD HAVE CRIED by Christopher Smith. THE ARBOR by Andrea Dunbar. The 1980 Young Writers Festival. Last Perf Tonight 8.00.

ROYAL COURT. S. CC. 730 1745. Evgs. 7.30. Opens April 2 at 7 HAMLET by William Shakespeare with Jonathan Pryce as Hamlet, Jill Bennett as Gertrude.

Games with Pope Joan

BY JUNE FIELD

PART OF the interest of old games and puzzles is finding out how they work. The piece of mystery treen, a small circular turned-elm box that I bought at Asprey's for less than £10 a short time ago, was not hard to identify as "Pigs-in-Clover" through Edward H. Pinto's incomparable *Treen and other Wooden bygones*.

It is a game with little marbles or metal balls, which, by careful tilting, are guided into the "clover" or centre of the maze. But the tiny oblong box with the label "Geometrical Recreations With a Book, 8/6 at R. Ackermann's 96, Strand, London," unfortunately had no book with it, and correctly putting together the contents, 18 wood shapes, still eludes me.

Well documented is Pope Joan, a card game for three or more players that was invented by combining two earlier games, commit and matrimony, played with an ordinary pack of cards *minus the eight of diamonds*, with the nine the Pope. As a cockney poet wrote:

While some, think conscience to protect,
Leave Loo and Whist alone,
Others, not quite so strict, elect
To gamble with Pope Joan.

Legend has it that Pope Joan, an English girl educated in Cologne in the 9th century and passing under the name Joannes Anglicas, went disguised as a man to Rome with her lover, a monk.

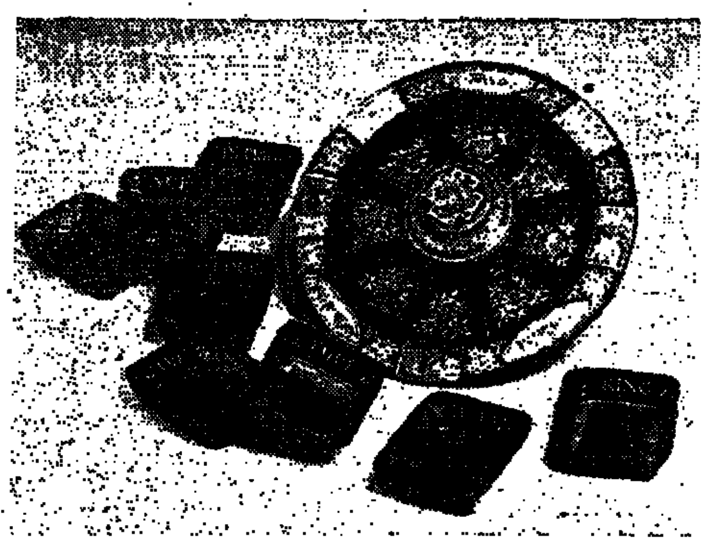
Having studied theology, it was claimed she occupied the papal chair as John VIII from 853-855, during which time she was supposed to have given birth to a child. The ecclesiastical historian David Blondel exposed the myth in 1647, with Johan Dollinger telling the full story in *Papal Legend of the Middle Ages*, 1863.

The game is played from a circular board revolving on a central stand, divided into eight compartments, plus counters and cards. The objective is that each player aims to win as many counters as possible by playing certain cards.

I bought a sycamore board, decorated both with painted floral sprays and varnished labels, but without any counter trays in Gray's Antique Market recently for under £40 (a painted-wood board plus four bone boxes, said to be about 1860, sold for £200 at Sotheby's Belgravia not so long ago). Mrs. Susan Benjamin's fascinating little gallery Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London, W1, has a superb example, a gilt-decorated board of brown *papier mâché*, c1815, complete with eight matching open trays and counters, £470 the set.

Another Regency game among Mrs. Benjamin's individualistic stock, which has a rapid turnover, was an unusual circular mahogany cribbage board, c1800, £175, a little drawer containing the score pegs. Although cribbage is reputed to have been invented by the poet Sir John Suckling (1609-42), it is also said to be an improved version of an older game called *noddy*.

The origins of chess are claimed in 6th- and 7th-century India and Persia. The term checkmate is from the Arabic *shahmat*, the king is dead. Chess was almost certainly begun as a wargame, chessmen of the early period representing the structure of an army, varying according to the country concerned.



Papier mâché Pope Joan game, complete with its eight counter trays, c1815, at Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1.

For example, pawn comes from the Latin *pedo*, foot soldier. Designs of chessmen changed over the years, though, and Caxton's second book, printed in English, *The Game and Playe of the Chesse*, 1480, gave the pawns a more domestic character, such as a merchant for the King's pawn, a physician for the Queen's.

Christie's devoted a special sale to chess sets in June last year, which totalled £59,030, the lots mainly from the collection of Mr. Amos Smith, one of a small band of serious collectors. On Thursday Christie's have a sale of "Fine Chess Sets" at their Great Rooms, King Street, including those with the provenance of the collections of Paul Hanna, Gerald Davies, Howard Janover and Jay C. Leff; prices estimates ranged from £100-£6,000.

A rare Minton parianware set has the rooks as three children with linked arms, the pawns kneeling boys. A Shogi set, with 20 pieces to each side instead of the traditional 16, is a version of Japanese chess introduced about the 8th century. A feature peculiar to Shogi since the 16th century is that captured pieces become members of the capturing side and can be returned to any position on the board.

Full details of the pieces and their moves are in *The Way To Play* (Paddington Press 1975). Other excellent general references are Frank Greygoose's *Chessmen* (David and Charles 1979), and *An Illustrated Dictionary of Chess* by Edward R. Brace (Hamlyn 1977).

On Tuesday, April 15, there is a sale of Chess sets and European ivories at Sotheby's Belgravia, 19 Motcomb Street, SW1. It includes many novel Chinese, Indian and French ivory chess sets, plus various combination sets, such as one of chess and draughts, the discs carved with an appropriate head, a horse for the knight, and elephant for the rook.

And now Rhodesia

STAMPS

JAMES MACKAY

ONE OF the less publicised outcomes of the settlement of the Rhodesian question has been the resumption in the trade of stamps issued since UDI in November, 1965. An embargo on this trade was introduced in mid-1966 and it became illegal to deal in the stamps from then onwards.

A few mint sets did trickle through, mainly from Rhodesians to people in Britain. But there was never sufficient material to establish a hard and fast market—and after a number of well-publicised raids on stamp dealers' premises by police and Customs post-UDI stamps became taboo.

Since the embargo did not come into effect till May, 1966, those stamps issued by the Smith regime between November, 1965, and May, 1966, were tolerated. The issues of this interim period comprised a locally produced "Independence commemorative," the Southern Rhodesia definitives with an Independence overprint, followed *shortly afterwards by a* similar series by Harrison and Sons of High Wycombe, with the inscription shortened to "Rhodesia."

The key stamp of this period was the Winston Churchill memorial stamp with independence overprint and a surcharge converting it to a five-shilling denomination. *Shortly after* release this stamp was changing hands at around £5 mint or used, but within the space of a few months it had doubled and quadrupled. A year ago it stood at £75 and today is catalogued *at £85 mint and £100 used, much* of the demand coming from the ever-growing band of collectors of Churchilliana.

Interest in the other issues of 1965-66 has remained steady, in spite of the ban on all of the *subsequent issues. The Harrison* definitives of 1966 have risen 25 per cent in the past year, from £15 mint or used to £21, while the Independence overprints have jumped in the same period from £90 mint or used to £110 and £120 respectively. Much more elusive, and therefore more difficult to quantify, are the stamps on commercial covers with clear postmarks *showing the word Southern* erased from the inscription.

Interest in this relatively *modern aspect of* Rhodesian postal history is growing steadily. These lopsided postmarks were eventually replaced by similar ones with the country name centrally placed. Now, with the change to Zimbabwe, *the name* Rhodesia has been erased from the foot of the circle and only the office name is given. Doubtless these, in turn, will be superseded by postmarks with the new country name.

For several years Stanley Gibbons catalogues have fully listed the UDI stamps since May, 1966, but avoided giving prices in mint or used condition. Before 1970 used Rhodesian stamps percolated through to Britain on mail from Rhodesians to their families in this country. It was treated by the Post Office as unstamped and surcharged accordingly—much to the annoyance of the recipients, unless they happened *to be philatelists.*

Surcharged mail from Rhodesia, franked by the banned stamps, and replete with British "To Pay" labels and explanatory marks or labels, are much sought after, and *it is* anticipated that, with the lifting of the ban on the philatelic trade, these choice items will rise sharply in value, providing more than adequate recompense for the irritation and the postage deficiencies in the past.

Stanley Gibbons has published a detailed price list of the hitherto banned stamps and this appears in a special supplement to the April issue of *Stamp Monthly*, available at 50p. The astonishingly high prices quoted for the majority of stamps up to *1976* reflects the fact that stocks in Rhodesia and South Africa have long since been depleted and that, in view of the difficult circumstances surrounding their issue, the available supply in Europe and America is woefully short of the demand.

The prices quoted by Gibbons *in its magazine do not take into* consideration the subtle nuances of paper, perforation and gum perpetrated by Mardon of Salisbury as they tried to cope with the problems of producing stamps which had *hitherto* been *printed* in England.

When a more specialised listing is published, it is expected that some of the rare provisional printings of 1966-69 will rocket in value. Even so, a *straightforward set of the first* Mardon definitives of 1966 is now priced at £180 mint and £170 used, and even the decimal currency set of 1970-73, ranging from 1c to $2, rates £80 mint and £70 used.

The set of five low-value definitives of 1967-68 with currency expressed in sterling and cents (face value 7s 3d or less than 40p) is listed at £120 mint and £100 used. The Philatelic Congress miniature sheet of 1966—a vital item for the vast army of collectors of Rowland *Hill material*—is priced at £35 mint or used, but such prices are largely academic since there just are no stocks around.

Interest in the older issues of Rhodesia has always been strong, *but even these stamps* have now received a tremendous boost from the lifting of sanctions. The Gibbons supplement has some dramatic increases in the prices of the famous "Double-heads" and *"Admirals" from 1910 to 1924,* with increases of 30-40 per cent in the space of half a year alone.

The opportunity has been taken to revise the prices of the better Commonwealth material right across the board and reflects the buoyancy of fine stamps even in these recessionary times.

The Posts and Telecommunications Corporation of Rhodesia has announced the designs of the Zimbabwe definitives which will be released as soon as the name is officially assumed.

Two hands at the cup game

BRIDGE

E. P. C. COTTER

THE Charity Challenge Cup was held recently at various centres *at home and abroad, and* I entered once again with Clair Sexton. Two hands interested me—we look first at this:

```
              N
            ♠ 10 4 3
            ♡ A Q 10
            ◇ 10 8 7
            ♣ K 8 7 3
   W                      E
♠ Q J                 ♠ 9 7 6
♡ 8 7 5 2             ♡ K 9 3
◇ Q J 9 6             ◇ K 5 4 3 2
♣ 10 9 4              ♣ 6 5
              S
            ♠ A K 8 5 2
            ♡ J 6 4
            ◇ A
            ♣ A Q J 2
```

My partner dealt in the South seat and bid one spade. After *thought I replied with one no* trump rather than two spades, and my partner rebid three clubs. Now with my near maximum I gave jump preference with four spades, which became the final contract. If South tries again with five diamonds, I say five hearts, and we reach the slam. Most tables missed this slam—it is no lay down—and we scored well for making plus 680.

Let us, however, assume that we have bid to six spades, and study the play of the hand. West leads the diamond Queen, you win with your Ace, and cash the *spade Ace, on which West drops* the Queen. How do you proceed?

West may, of course, have played a false card, but there is a safety play to make sure of losing only one trump trick—*lead a low card from hand.* Then, if East started with J 9 7 6, you can pick up the suit, losing only to the Knave. But wait—you must not lead another trump until you have found out the heart position.

At trick three *run* the heart Knave—if the finesse loses, you will have to assume that West *holds the singleton trump* Knave; if it wins, you take a second finesse to make sure—some defenders can be very cunning. If this, too, wins, you cross to hand with a diamond ruff, and play a low spade *towards the ten.*

In the second hand our opponents' bidding was not in accord with accepted ideas:

```
              N
            ♠ K 9 5
            ♡ Q 10 8
            ◇ K 7 3
            ♣ K 9 6 3
   W                      E
♠ Q 10 6 2            ♠ J 8 4 3
♡ 3 2                 ♡ 9 5
◇ Q 10 6 5            ◇ J 9 2
♣ J 8 2               ♣ A 10 7 5
              S
            ♠ A 7
            ♡ A K J 7 6 4
            ◇ A 8 4
            ♣ Q 4
```

With North-South game, South dealt and bid two hearts—he is not good enough for this one-round force—and North raised to three hearts. As I play it, this reply guarantees an Ace, *and I would have said three no* trumps. South now said four hearts, North introduced the Blackwood four no trumps, and South finished in six hearts.

Sitting eWst, I led the two of hearts, and the declarer drew two rounds with Ace and ten, then led the club three from the table, winning in hand with the Queen. There followed Ace and another spade, on which I petered, to the King, and the six of clubs was returned. My partner kept his composure and again played low, allowing me to win with theKnave. I led back the Queen of spades, the declarer ruffed, crossed to the heart Queen, and led another low club. His last hope was to bring down East's King, but this was not to be, and the contract was defeated.

You know, and I know, some *Easts who would have put up* the club Ace on the first lead. Still more would have played the Ace the second time, afraid South might win with the singleton Knave. But if South has started with Queen, Knave doubleton, there is no way in which the slam can be defeated—you can count his tricks.

The Chinese connection

CHESS

LEONARD BARDEN

The good results of the Chinese since they began to compete regularly about two years ago have been a feature of recent international chess. At the Buenos Aires olympics *they drew with Holland* and beat Iceland, while at Portoroz last year China's No. 1 Chi Ching-Hsuang defeated Larsen and Gligoric, both leading world grandmasters.

With this background, it is *foolish to take the Chinese* lightly. Their games show particular ability in tactical play and attack. Weaknesses are lack of all-round opening knowledge, notably in the more positional systems; and occasionally their strategic judgment is shallow.

Last month's traditional annual in Malta gave several British masters a rare chance *to take on the Chinese. Invited* to this 15-man all-play-all were the Soviet grandmaster, Tukmakov, international masters from Yugoslavia and Italy, the Chinese Liang and Liu, four Maltese experts, and the British *players Wade, Plaskett, Povah* and Blackstock. The international master norm was a modest 9½ out of 14 and since Povah and Plaskett already have IM scores hopes were high.

In the event, the East more or less swept the board, as Tukmakov won with 12 out of 14, followed by Karaklaic (Yugoslavia) 10, Toth (Italy), Liu and *Liang 9½, while Plaskett 8 and* Povah 8 led the British contingent to modest mid-table positions.

It was the Chinese who did the damage, scoring 5½ out of 8 against the British. Even their two defeats came in early rounds when they were not yet acclimatised. In several games the British masters tried to overrun their less experienced rivals by early attacks but were beaten by most energetic counter-punching. So this week's game is a warning: never underestimate your Chinese opponent.

White: Liu Wenzhe (China). Black: R. G. Wade (England). Opening: Caro-Kann Defence (Malta 1980).

1 P-K4 P-QB3; 2 N-QB3, P-Q4; 3 P-Q4, PxP; 4 NxP, N-B3; 5 NxN ch, KPxN; 6 B-QB4, Q-K2 *ch.*

Bronstein's idea, whose tactical point is 7 N-K2? Q-N5 ch and which plans to oppose White's strong bishop with gain of time.

7 Q-K2, B-K3; 8 B-Q3 (8 BxB, QxB is easy defence for Black), N-Q2.

Analysis by Hort recommends 8 . . . Q-B2; 9 Q-B3, B-Q3; 10 N-K2, 0-0 with a sound position, but Black is unable to resist the temptation to attack.

9 N-B3, 0-0-0; 10 0-0, Q-Q3; 11 P-QR4!

Finely judged. The further *advance of this pawn in preference* to routine piece development creates threats to the black king which limit Black's own attacking potential.

11 . . . B-N5; 12 P-R5, P-KB4.

If 12 . . . P-QR3, the sacrifice BxQRP becomes *a strong threat.*

13 P-R6, P-QN3; 14 P-R3, P-R4.

Already Black has little choice, since BxN concedes the bishop pair without compensation and B-R4 simply loses the KBP. The piece sacrifice looks dangerous at first sight, but Liu quickly demonstrates that Black's play on the KR file is *just a mirage.*

15 PxP, RPxP; 16 N-K5, QxP; 17 BxP, B-Q3; 18 NxNP (18 NxN? B-R7 ch draws), P-N3; 19 B-K3, Q-N2; 20 Q-B4!

Spelling out the reality that Black's sacrifice has produced a winning attack . . . for his opponent.

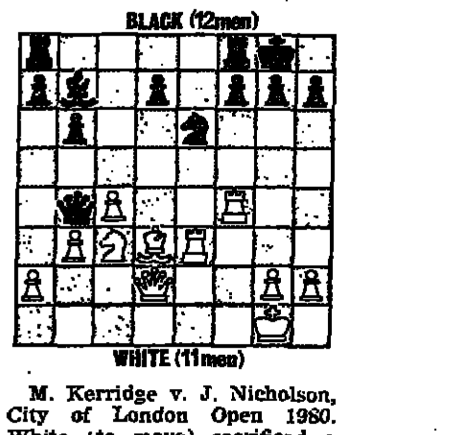
20 . . . K-B2; 21 BxN, RxB; 22 KR-Q1, P-KB4; 23 B-Q4, Q-R2; 24 BxR, QxB; 25 RxB.

The simplest way to end resistance. Black has no compensation for his lost piece, and the rest is mopping-up.

25 . . . RxR; 26 N-K3, QxP; 27 R-K1, Q-K4; 28 P-N3, R-Q2; 29 N-N2, Q-B3; 30 R-K6, *Q-R8 ch;* 31 NK1, R-Q3; 32 Q-KB4, Q-Q8; 33 Q-K5, P-QN4; 34 RxP, Resigns.

POSITION No. 313

BLACK (12men)

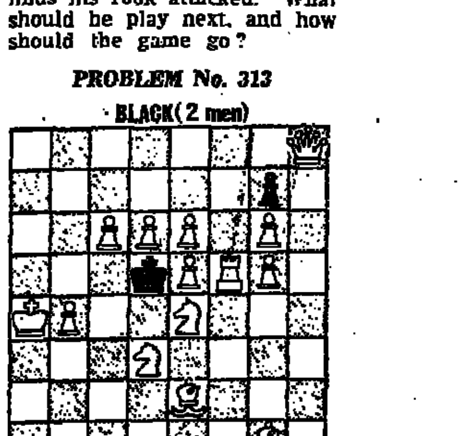


WHITE (11men)

M. Kerridge v. J. Nicholson, City of London Open 1980. White (to move) sacrificed a pawn for this position but now finds his rook attacked. What should he play next, and how should the game go?

PROBLEM No. 313

BLACK (2 men)



WHITE (14 men)

White mates in two moves, against any defence (by H. Jube, West Germany).

Chess solutions Page 14

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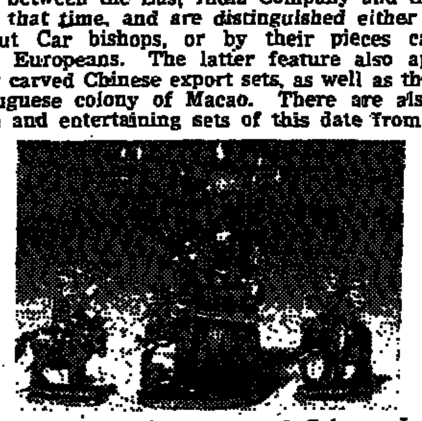

Although the elegant ivory sets of Calvert, Lund and Jacques's famous Staunton pattern remained of more traditional form, carvers in Dieppe had long been producing intriguing sets featuring Moors on one side. Following the example in the late 18th century, of Meissen and Wedgwood, many other porcelain factories produced sets *designed* not only to be played with, but also to appear equally charming when displayed. Indeed, the appeal of this increasingly collected field lies in the enormous variation on the same theme to be found in it, offering *sets to suit every taste, to please* both the player and the collector. A selection of over 100 of such sets will be included in a sale of Chess sets on April 1.

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Saturday March 29 1980

Feeling the squeeze

THE RATHER sour reception of Sir Geoffrey Howe's second Budget is not altogether surprising, for it deliberately offers little comfort in an increasingly chilly world. A squeeze in the UK is clearly urgently necessary, but when the squeeze is worldwide, some of the accustomed consolations of austerity may be harder than usual to come by. The Budget is designed above all to put a downward pressure on interest rates; but at the same time the belated efforts to control U.S. inflation is still driving international rates upward. For the moment, then, UK companies face the sterling squeeze on margins, a declining home market, and yet persistently high interest rates.

Realistic

Though this short-term view almost certainly exaggerates the prospective pain rather markedly, the reaction in the equity markets has been realistic. Investors seem to have been living on unsupported hope for some time. The bleak economic forecasts in the Budget Red Book, coupled with the absence of any direct help for employers among Sir Geoffrey's measures, left the market to digest the unpleasant reality.

British employers, under trade union pressure, have been pricing themselves out of their own markets. Their margins are compressed to near vanishing point in some cases, their stocks are too high—and may throw up considerable book losses as commodity prices fall—and they face, by almost unanimous forecast, the worst financial squeeze since 1974. The only Budget concessions offered—tax help for those running down stocks or making above-minimum rendundancy payments—speak only too eloquently for themselves.

The coming months will sort out the men from the boys in a rough and ready way—for unfortunately it is sometimes the excessively stodgy who survive such trying conditions, and the over-enterprising who run into difficulties. Clearly, as some employers' organisations argued ahead of the Budget, and as Sir Geoffrey clearly believes, a fall in interest rates, and probably a consequent easing of the exchange rate, would offer the most effective relief at present; and it is here that the market seems to be under-valuing what has been achieved.

The £8½bn borrowing requirement for the coming year seems to have aroused three reactions. First, that it is exactly what was expected, and therefore calls for no reassessment. Secondly, that it is so tight that it probably cannot be achieved. Thirdly, that a falling borrowing requirement in a declining economy is so deflationary that the Government will yet be forced into a U-turn.

All these reactions are misguided, and for the same reason: they leave the North Sea out of account. Although it is true that almost every feature of the best-leaked Budget of modern times was expected, it is not many weeks since it was generally thought that a virtually neutral Budget would result in a borrowing requirement of £11bn or so. The rising flow of North Sea revenues has made the difference. For the same reasons, the figure should be achievable, and the deflationary impact of the Budget is largely an optical illusion.

Sir Geoffrey has not squeezed a declining economy to reduce borrowing, but simply failed to distribute the revenue from one rapidly-growing source. As the new and profoundly welcome medium-term plan shows, the Government has earmarked the lion's share of the oil revenue for the next three years to easing pressures in the capital market.

This drastic change must have striking effects. Even this year the Government's need for market funds, for gilts and asset sales, will be reduced by some £1½bn, while institutional cash flow will be sharply up, as a result not only of inflated incomes, but of the high yield on recent issues of Government debt. The large question is whether investors will seek outlets for those funds abroad—in which case the real exchange rate will ease—or whether they will bid down long interest rates at home with an enthusiasm which will bring short rates down as well.

Silver

Meanwhile, innovations in funding, which are under active study in the Treasury, could further increase the attractions of fixed-interest stocks; and a reduction in debt service costs would make the Government's public spending objectives much easier to achieve, since the nationalised industries and the housing subsidy account would be major beneficiaries. This would be more than welcome, for the most questionable feature of Sir Geoffrey's plans is the heavy reliance on savings in these areas, which may otherwise mean large increases in charges—a selective equivalent to a considerable rise in VAT, and genuinely deflationary.

Abroad, the U.S. squeeze continues to produce dramatic effects offshore, but less evident ones—apart from the drama in the silver market—inside the U.S. The continued heavy fall in a broad range of commodities, and the steady rise in the dollar—up 1¼ per cent this week, and 6½ per cent since the Volcker package—demonstrate the power of tight money.

The silver coup that failed

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

THE GREAT silver coup appears to have failed. That is the message coming through from reports that Mr. Nelson Bunker Hunt, the Texas oil billionaire, was having great difficulty in meeting margin calls in the silver futures market. But perhaps better proof is provided by the fact that the price of silver has plummetted from an all-time peak of over £21 an ounce in January to the present level of below £6 yesterday.

The repercussions of this spectacular rise and fall in silver prices are important because the size of the sums involved effects even some of the biggest companies.

Mr. Hunt is reported to have managed to raise $250m yesterday, including $100m in cash, to meet margin calls. It is not surprising, therefore, that there is considerable nervousness and apprehension not only in the silver market but also in the stock markets about some of the leading commodity broking companies, notably Conti Commodities, part of the Continental Grain group, and Bache. It is difficult to sort out the real facts amid the welter of unconfirmed rumours. But the picture is now becoming clearer. It now seems that Mr. Hunt, aided by a group of wealthy associates including oil-rich Arabs, decided last year to mount a massive raid on the silver market.

If successful this could have resulted in Mr. Hunt and his backers effectively cornering the world silver market and, thereby, controlling prices. This week Mr. Hunt admitted that he, and his associates, owned 200m ounces of silver, which they proposed to use as backing for silver bonds. It is a massive amount in its own right. However, it is believed that Mr. Hunt also has large outstanding purchases on the silver futures market for delivery at various dates in the months ahead. It is these purchases, made on margin, that are understood to be causing Mr. Hunt a severe cash-flow demand. The normal practice in commodity futures dealings is to provide a percentage of the total outlay to the broker as a margin. The size of the margin depends on the financial credibility of the client concerned and the state of the market.

Unanticipated losses

Usually a 10 per cent margin is considered to provide sufficient protection for the broker to avoid a bad debt. But the margin is raised either if the client has dubious financial backing or if the market is very volatile—as was certainly the case in silver. Some brokers, in fact, refused to take any new business at all, while others raised their margin requirements considerably. But the extent of the price movements in silver was so great that inevitably many brokers were faced with clients who lost more than they could readily afford.

This week indeed one New York metal company was forced into voluntary liquidation because of losses in the silver market. It is widely anticipated that there will be many more bankruptcies in the weeks ahead as losses and bad debts come home to roost.

Behind the extraordinary behaviour o fthe silver market looms the figure of Mr. Hunt, who is considered by metal traders to be the villain of the piece.

Some years ago he was concerned in an apparent attempt cerned in a squeeze of the silver market in New York by buying up the bulk of stocks.

But last year came a new opportunity. The decline in the value of the dollar, as a result of the Iranian crisis, and inflation fears brought a surge in the price of gold. Silver, which has traditionally moved in line with gold as an alternative monetary metal and store of wealth, failed to react initially and was considered to be undervalued as a result. Mr. Hunt is then believed to have formed a syndicate, or consortium, in Chicago that decided to corner the silver market by the simple device of making massive purchases on the futures market and then insisting on taking actual physical delivery of these purchases. This severely strained the whole structure of the futures market, which normally is concerned with "paper" transactions with only a very small percentage physically being traded.

Futures markets are not designed to handle physical transactions. They are concerned with giving price protection and indicating current and future price trends. The option to take, or make, delivery of the physical commodity is only to provide credibility to the "paper" transactions. The result was that the whole market was thrown into disarray as dealers, who had sold were often forced to find silver they did not have. At the same time prices were pushed higher and higher.

Buyer-Seller swing

However, market forces then hit back. Metal traders claim that it is possible to corner a market, providing sufficient funds are available, but it is a very different matter to sustain it and take the profits out.

Once there is any sign that the influential buyer has turned seller prices are liable to dive. So the objective is to persuade other people to take over the buying and gradually withdraw while prices are still rising.

There is a good argument for buyin gsilver if the price is right. New mine production is normally well below consumption and the balance has to be made up from stocks above the ground, accumulated over the centuries. Obviously if prices are low there is a considerable reluctance to release those surplus stocks.

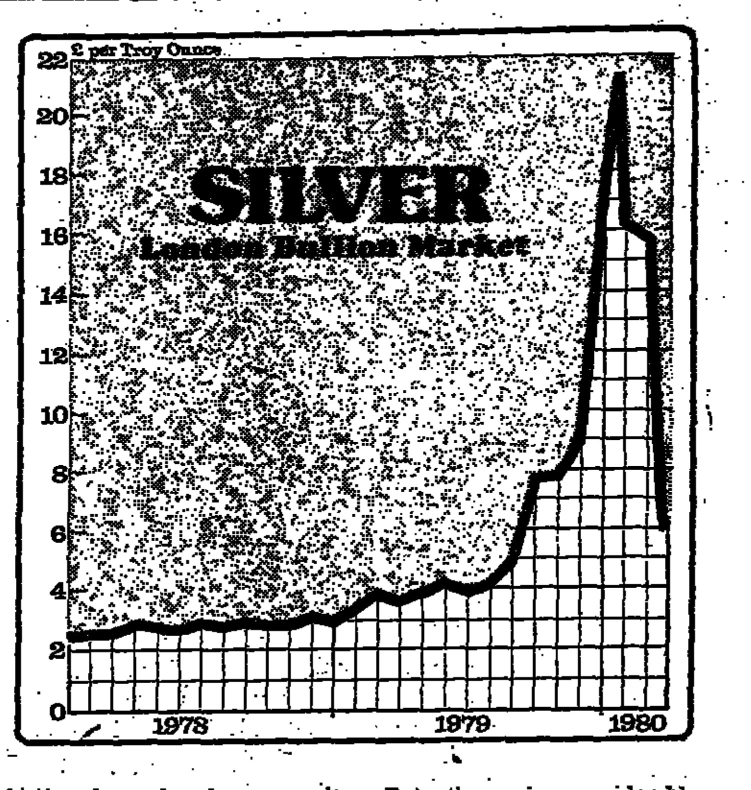
Price-sensitive demand

But demand for silver is price-sensitive. The main users are photographic film manufacturers. It is also consumed by the electronics and jewellery industries, as well as used for coins and medallions. All of these users have been looking very carefully into how they can use less silver.

However the main shift in the supply-demand situation that seems to have defeated efforts to corner the market is on the production side. For a start many mines that produce silver as a by-product of base metal production suddenly found that it was worthwhile stepping up output simply for the silver content of the ore. The biggest increase in supplies came from the recovery of silver already used once. The queues of people offering old silver products to the refiners when the market was at its peak were sneered at by many people, who considered it scandalous that some ornaments with artistic or design merit should be sacrified in this way. But it was a good example of market forces at work. There are now considerable quantities of silver coming onto the market swamping all buying demand and as a result prices have tumbled.

Traders in London can hardly hide their smiles of satisfaction. They have always claimed that no one can dominate the market for long, however powerful, and that attempts of this kind only distort normal trading patterns as well as giving the market a bad name.

But there is considerable apprehension too about possible repercussions. Several big companies have already admitted to problems in meeting their margins on the futures markets. Last night a broker in St. Louis said a customer had failed to meet margin calls and many traders feel that so far only the tip of the iceberg has been revealed.



THE HUNTS have dabbled so much and for so long in the fast-moving world of commodities, where fortunes are made and broken in a single day, that they often get blamed when things go haywire—as they did in the silver market this week. But this tim eit was a true bill. The Hunts were caught short, and for the first time the markets beat them, rather than the other way round.

Nelson Bunker Hunt (pictured left) draws most of the fire, but he has three brothers and several other relations, all heirs to the immense fortune amassed by the late Texas oilman, H. L. Hunt.

All have shown a strong penchant for dabbling in stocks and commodities. The only trouble is that when people who measure their wealth not in millions but billions start dabbling, the results can be spectacular.

Mr. Hunt, 53, is not everyone's idea of a Texas oil millionaire. He is chubby, shabbily dressed, and lives in modest suroundings in Dallas. A recent visitor says his office is smaller than his secretary's, and is barely furnished. Mr. Hunt prides himself that he gets by on less than $2,000 a month.

Acquaintances compare him to a chuckling genial bear who passes remarks like: "If you know how much money you have, you haven't got very much." A political right-winger, he also jokes: "I prefer a black conservative to a white liberal." And, eschewings the usual American millionaire urge to found libaries and other name-preserving memorials, Mr. Hunt says: "I don't want to be remembered for anything."

Mr. Hunt proved he was no fool when he opened up one of the richest oilfields ever discovered in Libya in the 1950s. His interest there was nationalised in 1973, but not before they had added millions more to the Hunt coffers.

The Hunts interest in silver dates back to the days when they owned the Sunshine Mine, the largest silver mine in the U.S. But the Hunts were pushed out of that company by other investors, so they turned instead to amassing their own private hoard of silver. In the early 1970s they bought huge amounts at the now bargain price of $3 an ounce, and reportedly kept it on a boat in the middle of a Texas lake.

But last year, Mr. Hunt evidently decided to step up the pace, and in one of the most spectacular raids ever seen, bought an estimated 200m oz more, driving prices up to record levels. Whenever Mr. Hunt's silver broker appeared on the floor of the New York Commodity Exchange, prices invariably leapt up several dollars. However, there was a sense of unreality about the market. Commodity traders' worries centred on the fact that any previous Hunt raids on the market had been highly successful.

In the mid-1970s the Hunt family pulled off a spectacular coup in the somewhat more prosaic soyabean market in Chicago. By building up a huge position of 23m bushels they drove prices to such dizzy heights that they crippled one of the country's largest commodity companies, Cook Industries. Although the Hunts were later rebuked by a Federal court for exceeding trading limits, the episode was convincing evidence of the Hunts' immense financial muscle, and the lengths to which they were prepared to go.

But the question after this week's silver debacle is whether the Hunts have been stung for good. In money terms their losses are negligible given that their fortune has been put at anything between $3bn and $5bn. But Mr. Hunt must have spent a harrowing week as his brokers pestered him with calls for more cash to cover his weakening positions. And the market has shown that it no longer believes he can underpin it.

A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Hunt was asked by a reporter what he was doing in the silver market. He answered: "It is a game. I don't have a plan." He may have changed his mind since then.

David Lascelles in New York

Richard Lambert drops in on an enterprising conversation

Aunt Agatha wants a piece of the action offered by the Chancellor . . .

Arthur? This is your Aunt Agatha speaking. I've been reading all about what that nice Sir Geoffrey Howe had to say in his Budget the other day, and I've decided to put some of my savings into your business.

Uh huh.

Yes, Dear. I've got £10.000 to spare, which I imagine will get me quite a tidy little number of your shares. I'd be very happy to come along to your Board meetings, of course, provided they don't happen on the second Tuesday of each month which is my day for bridge—

Aunty—

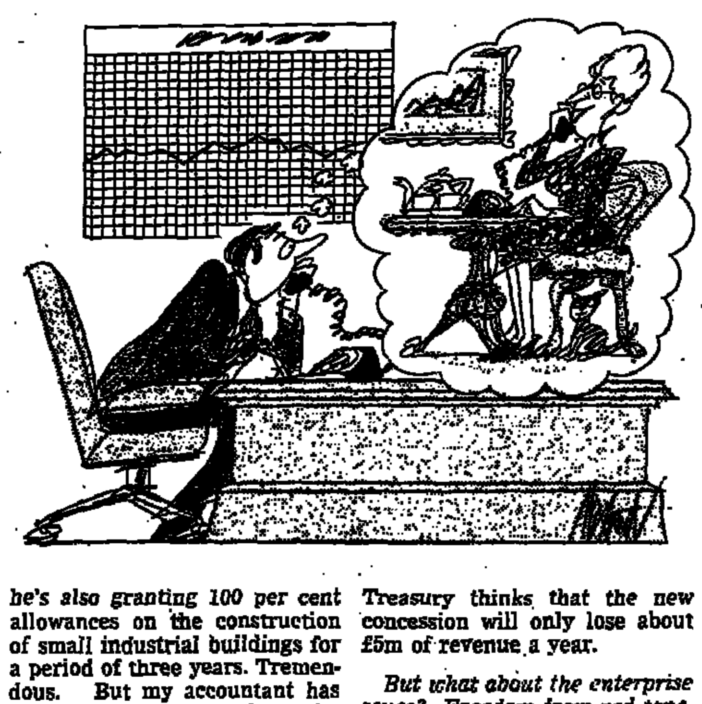
Doing one's own thing

—and I wouldn't at all mind helping you to look after your affairs. After all, my experiences with your poor uncle have made me quite an expert in man management, if you know what I mean.

AUNT! Until my business is absolutely at its last gasp, there is no possibility of my selling any of the shares for £10,000 or £100,000 to you or anyone else. I would not have left my extremely well paid job at Megabuck Securities if I hadn't absolutely yearned for a bit of independence—the chance to do my own thing without having to seek the approval of anyone. Including, dear relative, you.

But I think you are being so unfair! All my friends are going to put their money into small businesses. The talk in Tunbridge Wells is of nothing else but wealth creation and the role of the private saver. I'll be so left out.

Too bad. They may all say that they are going to stump up their cash, but have they got anyone who is prepared to take it? Sir Harold Wilson's committee in the City has produced whole telephone directories to show that there is no shortage of finance for industry, and scarcely a day goes by without some financial institution or another trying to muscle in on my business. Look at how much tax the Treasury people say they are going to lose as a result of the Budget concessions. Allowing tax relief for the interest paid on money borrowed for investment in close companies will, they say, have a negligible cost. Allowing losses on equity investment in unquoted trading companies to be set off against the investor's income will cost them a bit—£20m in a full year—but then there can be quite a few losses in that kind of investment. Finance for Industry reckons that a third of the new ventures which it supported in the ten years to 1977 had gone bust by the end of the period.



Making a 'killing'

I know what it is! You're going to make an absolute killing out of all the tax concessions you've been given, and you are too mean to let anyone else share in the fun.

Aunty, you really are talking through your hat. He's cutting the small companies' rate of tax to 40 per cent and raising the qualifying limit for relief, and he's also granting 100 per cent allowances on the construction of small industrial buildings for a period of three years. Tremendous. But my accountant has already known for at least the last couple of years that he would be fired if I ended up paying a penny piece of corporation tax, and the same applies to most of the other small companies that I know. If he can't fix that through stock relief and the other existing allowances, then he's not worth his keep. As for scrapping the so called apportionment of trading income of close trading companies, well that is fine too, but it really has not got a great deal to do with the price of potatoes. You could already be excused paying out all those high taxed dividends if you could show that you needed to keep the money in the business to finance expansion, and the Treasury thinks that the new concession will only lose about £5m of revenue a year.

But what about the enterprise zones? Freedom from red tape, big tax concessions—it sounds marvellous!

It does indeed, and I'm sure that quite a number of people will be looking at the idea closely. But I'm not about to up sticks and move everything at my time of life, quite apart from the fact that Audrey would have a thousand fits if I suggested that we should move base from Haywards Heath to the Isle of Dogs. What you have got to understand is that my business is ticking along quite nicely as it is. Expansion involves hassle, and risk, and it's not something you undertake just because a Chancellor waves a magic wand.

Are you trying to suggest that dear Sir Geoffrey was only talking a lot of hot air on Wednesday?

Far from it. The thing that really pleased me was the doubling in the threshold for capital transfer tax to £50,000. If you add to that the 50 per cent relief on valuation when the whole or part of a business is transferred, it means that you can pass on a really quite substantial business to your heirs intact. That may not actually bring any new money into the enterprise, but it does real wonders for morale. As for all the other things, they do not add up to much individually, but taken together they do help to create a better climate for business. And I'm not absolutely ruling out the idea of taking in new capital. For instance, if a really experienced business man who knew the area and my line of activity wanted to become a non-executive director and put in some money, I'd have to take him seriously.

Reducing cost of capital

So you think that the tax concessions will have at least some impact on the level of investment in small businesses?

Certainly. By making it cheaper for investors to borrow money to put into private companies, and by using the tax system to reduce their risk of failure, the Chancellor will help to reduce the cost of capital to this kind of enterprise. I gather that some City firms are already thinking about putting together syndicates of high rate taxpayers to do just that.

Whether you think this kind of tax discrimination is a good thing for the economy as a whole is another matter. I notice, for instance, that the income tax relief on capital losses appears to apply specifically to unquoted trading companies. It's already expensive enough to go public, and if this goes through it will presumably make companies think even harder about coming to the Stock Exchange.

Inflation the key

So what does it all add up to?

The Thing, dear Aunt, that really matters about the Budget is not the concessions to small businesses, helpful though they may be in some instances. A thousand times more important than all the enterprise zones in the world is the success of the Chancellor's plans to bring down inflation and the rates of interest, and whether the economy eventually pulls out of what promises to be a really nasty recession. If all that comes right, quite frankly you can keep the rest.

I suppose you're right. At any rate I must fly. Do you remember that charming young man who got me those containers to lease which were so unfortunately lost in the Bay of Biscay? Well he tells me that he knows of a really tax efficient way of investing in micro-chip manufacturing in Bilston, and he's coming round to tea.

POLITICS TODAY

An uncertain trek to the promised land

AFTER Sir Geoffrey Howe's second Budget the Conservative Government has a coherent economic philosophy with figures attached. It has taken nearly a year to get there. But we now know roughly where we are starting from and broadly where we are going, even if there may be pitfalls along the way.

The most important commodity, as both the Chancellor and Mr. John Biffen, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, have emphasised this week, is time. "Time," said Sir Geoffrey, "and resolute commitment to the right strategy for a period of years ahead."

Of the resolute commitment to the strategy there can be no doubt. One has little sympathy for those who argue that this Budget contains the seeds of the famous U-turn, or that the Treasury team is less than on top of the Cabinet. It is inconceivable to me that there could be a major change of economic direction under these Ministers.

Time, however, is another matter. Will there be time for the policies to work before the general election in 1984? (The Government is clearly planning to run its full term.) In theory the answer is "yes." As the Financial Statement or "Red Book" makes plain, oil revenues will provide room for very substantial tax reductions in 1982-83 and 1983-84. The idea of a basic rate of income tax of 25p in the pound is no longer just a pipedream, even though it was underplayed in the Chancellor's speech. Any government is bound to benefit from such a development.

Yet, in practice, there is still the problem of getting from here not so much to the promised land but to what might be called "A Better Tomorrow," if somebody else had not used the phrase first. It is partly the prospect of the long hard slog on the way, the by-elections lost, the outbreaks of discontent in the party, the natural ups and downs in any government's fortunes, that are givin grise to caution.

The other ground for caution is: What happens if the Treasury's economic assumptions turn out to be correct? It has been generally assumed that the Government has gone for the most pessimistic forecasts possible in order to avoid erring on the side of over-confidence. One is assured, however, that this is not the case.

The Red Book, for example, suggests that gross domestic product will fall by 2½ per cent between 1979 and 1980, which already looks bad enough. Yet one is told that the Treasury model was predicting something worse.

Disconcerting

Again, it may seem unlikely that, after the recession forecast for this year, the economy will grow by an average annual rate of only 1 per cent in the period up to 1983-84, which is what the Treasury calls "a fairly cautious assumption." But what if the Treasury is right? As Mr. Denis Healey, the Shadow Chancellor, pointed out in the House of Commons on Thursday, after four years we shall have scarcely recovered the output lost in the first.

There are other disconcerting projections. The prospects for inflation are not all that good. It now looks as if the Government will be lucky to go into the election with prices rising by much less than 10 per cent on a yearly basis, though the rate may be falling fast. It is an astonishing development, compared with the 1950s, that 10 per cent inflation should have to be presented as an achievement.

There is also the question of unemployment which is going to get a good deal worse before it gets better. Thus although recovery may be on the way somewhere over the horizon, there is clearly going to be much to recover from. That explains the reluctance of Treasury Ministers to wax lyrical about the future.

In any case, there is no room for poetry in a Budget Speech, and especially not this year. Ministers at the end seemed to have two main feelings: one was exhaustion and the other was relief.

The exhaustion was the result of the sheer grind of producing the Budget and the Public Expenditure White Paper at the same time. Even reformist Ministers had temporarily lost their enthusiasm for making simultaneous publication the norm, although since the framework has been set for the next few years, it should not again be such a major exercise.

There are other possible reforms in the wind: for example, making regular announcements about the partial indexation of benefits that do not have to coincide with the Budget. They could be made every six months. But for the moment it looks as if there will be a pause for thought about procedures before any decisions are taken.

Ministers' relief came from the reactions to the Budget Speech. Until the last minute it had been feared that there might be trouble in the party about the refusal to raise child benefits fully to allow for inflation. It is still feared that there may be trouble in future. Indeed child benefits have become an example of single-issue politics around which it is possible for all sorts of diverse groups to unite and to make the Government look mean.

The benefits are not popular among Treasury Ministers. It is pointed out that any increase, however large the overall cost, tends to look meagre when expressed as a weekly sum. As a matter of fact, the 75p increase announced on Wednesday is said to be the equivalent of an increase of £130 in the old child tax allowance, although the latter sounds much more. Still, Ministers are reconciled to having to stick with the system. There will simply be the threat of trouble every time the Budget approaches.

This year most of the Tory rebels seem to have been bought off by the composition of the Budget as a whole. They liked the raising of personal tax allowances and the attempts to make special provision for the most vulnerable, such as the old and the disabled. In particular, they were pleased that Sir Geoffrey did not go as far as he might have done in easing taxes on capital: there had been fears among some Tory back-benchers that this might again be seen as a rich man's Budget. Most of those apprehensions have now disappeared. The Treasury team is not expecting major trouble from its own side during the Finance Bill.

Reception

Treasury Ministers were also relieved by the Press reaction. The Government indeed seems to be getting away with some of its more controversial proposals—such as the plans to abolish earnings-related benefits for the unemployed and to assume that strikers receive strike pay from their union—without undue hostility. This had not been taken for granted.

Yet if the reception was good, Treasury Ministers still have their worries. Most of them centre around public sector pay. It is assumed that pay settlements in the private sector will come down next year, but there is much less certainty about the public sector. Indeed there is an informed view that some of the greatest difficulties in future will come from white collar unions, many though not all of which are in the public sector. (A private sector union which, it is thought, could be unusually demanding and ready to resort to disruptive action is the National Union of Bank Employees, reacting to high bank profits).

Two developments here may be of interest. They concern the Stanley Commission on pay comparability, usually known as the Clegg Commission, and the role of the National Economic Development Council or Neddy.

There is an intriguing passage in the expenditure white paper, presumably left over from an earlier draft, just as there was in the Chancellor's speech, which suggests that Clegg is about to be abolished. It lists the sheer size of the pay settlements implemented in the public sector as a result of accepting the principle of comparability. That is paragraph 33. Paragraph 34, however, moves to some rather different subject. The argument about the usefulness or otherwise of Clegg is never developed.

Lest there should be any doubt about this, the word is that the Chancellor has decided that Clegg must be kept. True, the Commission is not being used very much at the moment and indeed this week the nation's radiographers held a day of action to demonstrate against the paucity of one of its awards. Yet the Commission is being kept in reserve for possible future use. Whatever the purists may say about comparability being incompatible with the Tories' economic philosophy, Sir Geoffrey is not prepared to disband Clegg only to find that something similar has to be set up at a later date. His approach may be taken either as an admission of possible troubles to come, or as a sign of flexibility, or both. But it is not quite what was expected only a few days ago.

Sir Geoffrey has also clearly not abandoned his idea of using the NEDC as a forum "where the major participants in the economy can sit down calmly together to consider the implications — for prosperity as well as for unemployment and pay-bargaining — of the Government's fiscal and monetary policies."

The quotation comes from "The Right Approach to the Economy," published by the Conservative Central Office in 1977. The idea was not included in the party manifesto. But it seems that it is already being put into practice. The Chancellor said in his Budget speech: "There is a need for much greater public awareness of the link between pay increases price inflation and unemployment. This subject has already come up in the NEDC forum, and we shall be returning to it again at future meetings."

Trevor Humphries

Readers may have noticed that Neddy gatherings during the past few months have been preceded by a certain building-up of expectations in the Press. For example, Mrs. Thatcher is to take the Chair, or the Governor of the Bank of England is to become a full participant. But little emerges about what actually happens at the meetings. This is because of a mutual vow of silence between Government and unions, with the unions the more insistent that nothing should be said about the proceedings in public.

One is not saying that anything very significant has been achieved so far. Still less is one suggesting that Neddy is about to become the forum for establishing an informal incomes policy; even the West German model of "concerted action" scarcely does that. But the lines of communication between Government and unions are still open. Sir Geoffrey's approach to the economy is a good deal more flexible than it sometimes appears.

Malcolm Rutherford

Letters to the Editor

Assistance to entrepreneurs

From Mr. D. Statham.

Sir,—Dr. Ray (March 25) advocates that the weight of assistance offered to entrepreneurs should be directed towards those enterprises with an assessable growth pattern. Undeniably a reasonable approach, it does however demonstrate an insufficient seizure of the realities of small businesses as they are not how they are often thought to be or are portrayed by various reports.

Clearly certain small business structures and activities would appear to have factors giving them more growth potential than others. What is more difficult to take into account is the perceived ability of the entrepreneur himself. The skills and attitudes generally common to those with the will to go it alone can be the very assets which restrict the growth pattern and all too often bring about an enterprise's mortality. Growth businesses reach the stage of requiring its creators to adopt new skills more quickly than those with a less dramatic rise and therefore become as vulnerable to mortality as others not selected for assistance.

One of the more important facets of assistance is the making available to entrepreneurs acceptable means of learning the managerial skills required. The problem, so far almost totally unresolved, is in convincing the potential employer of tomorrow that he will need to know. Even supposing that a significant breakthrough can be achieved towards a greater awareness of the need to know, one still faces the problems of the entrepreneur finding the time and the "assistance" being offered in the right package and by the right institutions. One would hope that universities and polytechnics could take on this role but some considerable shift in attitude and knowledge of the real world would be necessary to bridge the communications gap.

Dennis Statham.
Hackney Business Promotion Centre,
1-11, Hoxton Street, N1.

The engineer's armoury

From Mr. S. Oliver.

Sir,—The stimulating piece by Brian Houlden and Terry Hill (March 17) covers a wide area. Finniston is criticised, but there is a note of optimism.

The importance of industrial design is emphasised once again. Industrial design must be fully integrated at all stages of engineering degree courses, just as it must permeate all levels of engineering design organisations.

The authors rightly emphasise the often-neglected dangers of unnecessary technological sophistication (with attendant punative costs) and designs subject to operating troubles.

We are really talking about "effectiveness" as well as "efficiency," as defined in current usage. For example, if a ship can be built in record time, with little or no profit, but achieves an order for a further 10 ships on the strength of it, the situation could, in defined circumstances, be a very effective one. It is important to operate an effective plan efficiently in the long run and the financial costs associated with expensive education and training programmes will need to be seen in this light.

The emphasis must be upon application to common themes in business and our educational and communications skills must be developed with this in mind. For example, "marketing" must not only be practised outside a company but at every level inside the company. Industrial design must therefore be "marketed" at all levels of the organisation and future engineers will undoubtedly need the additional skills emphasised by Houlden and Hill and, to some extent, by Finniston.

It will be a formidable task to attract, select and train the future engineers who must blend technology with the arts of business management (the "intangibles" quoted by the authors).

The efforts being made by the higher educational establishments are, on the face of it, impressive. Whether they have the right kind of widely experienced staff is another matter. Engineering is, after all, the business of achieving practical things. I remember being told by my lecturer in thermodynamics that he would certainly not discuss "engines" of any kind during the course and would in fact aim to avoid using the word altogether. This happened in a university and, although much theory was demanded by the subject, it could have been taught in a much more useful way.

It is clear that polytechnics should have a strong role to play, here. Higher education is "getting into gear," but is industry prepared to throw in its superior facilities, manpower and strength? Surely the times demand it?

Stanley Oliver
Department of Business Studies and Management,
Salford College of Technology,
Salford.

Imports of textiles

From the Vice-President,
National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers

Sir,—With no great surprise, but with disgust, I read the article by Rhys David (March 17) reporting that our Secretary of State for Trade indicated that the Government is not prepared to ensure further restraints on imports of textiles and clothing into the UK.

I was not surprised to read that the Government continues to "pass the buck" by requesting that the textile industry backs up its claim of an alarming growth in fraud, dumping and other unfair practices by suppliers to the UK market. The Government makes the request that the industry provides evidence, evidence which the Government either cannot obtain itself, or evidence that the Government will continue to ignore.

How much longer can the Secretary of State continue to ignore the reality of the situation and continue to deceive the British people?

How can a Government Minister, who has a responsibility to the British people, continue to voice political platitudes in the knowledge that this British industry employing 750,000 people is being sacrified?

My belief is that this Government, and indeed our European friends(?), are prepared to sacrifice 2m northern European textile jobs. Indeed, this allegation has been with us long enough to allow those of us associated with the industry to monitor the progress.

It does not take a "Nobel" prize-winner to realise that no section of British manufacturing industry can compete with the developing countries whose low costs and lack of social costs permits and encourages unfair competition.

John Nott, as Secretary of State for Industry, will recall that in 1977 and 1979 he issued Conservative policy statements that declared the necessity for "free" but "fair" trade, and furthermore, those same policy statements argued that free trading conditions do not exist. The Secretary of State furthermore advocated "fair" competition, "fair" pricing, and "fair" access to markets.

How much longer can the Secretary of State continue to ignore reality, or does he honestly envisage the day when our industry's manufacturers can compete against those who manufacture in areas of the world whose wage costs are between £6-£10 per week per person inclusive, or compete against Sri-Lanka perhaps, whose manufacturers' weekly food average costs would be less than half British manufacturers' weekly National Insurance contributions.

Perhaps the Secretary of State neglected to read the last year's annual report of British Home Stores which benefited by a high valued British £ which purchases a greater volume of textiles from low cost wage areas of the world.

The Government, in the case of the textile industry, appears to be unable, or unwilling, to take action to ensure the continuation of the industry which between 1975-1978 invested £700m which in the same period increased its output per head at almost double the rate of manufacturing industry generally, and which increased its productivity more than five times that of vehicle manufacturing.

On April 9, 1979, John Nott, then Conservative spokesman on trade said, on behalf of the Conservative Party, and I quote, "that the Textile Industry was an example to the rest of British industry."

I have faith in the people who work in the industry, and I have faith in the industry, but I have no faith in Parliamentarians who show hypocrisy and abrogate their responsibility to the British people.

One final point; your article reported that the Government depended on the open market for our own exports overseas, including textile and clothing exports, which amounted to £2.1bn in 1979. If this and other industries are sacrificed, I suggest that a bankrupt United Kingdom will benefit nobody—least of all the developing nations of the world.

M. A. Humphrey,
National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers.
44, Kelvingrove Street,
Glasgow, Scotland.

Discredited democracy

From the Managing Director
Whatman Reeve Angel

Sir,—I read Mr. Herman Rebhan's letter (March 25) with interest but it is clearly more difficult for someone living outside the country to appreciate the issues of a domestic general election and to sense the mood that brought about Mr. Heath's election in 1970 and Mrs. Thatcher's in 1979.

There are two underlying factors that will have to change before we emerge from our industrial relations problems and neither are the one chosen by Mr. Rebhan namely, industrial democracy. Industrial democracy has long been discredited as a misnomer coined in a particular political atmosphere. It related to trades union power and not to involvement and participation which is what we truly need. An industrial unit is made up of differing levels of responsibility for human and inanimate resources and this is incompatible with the representational implications of the world democracy. Furthermore the implementation of such representation would surely lead to the failure of that unit in a competitive economy. No, the two factors I refer to the first the balance of power and secondly the position in which trades union leaders find themselves viz with the task of continuously getting the best short-term deal for their members. With a significant imbalance of the first it had to be too much to expect for any progress to be made. Our input inflation rate and the level of bank borrowing bear testimony to the continued presence of the second.

Without being able, by waving magician's wand, to solve these problems may I at least expose the fallacies in Mr. Rebhan's letter. Please, please, after the progress that has been made and is being made, can we keep politics out of industrial relations, let Bullock and industrial democracy rest in peace and move through the 1980s with involvement and participation.

J. Leigh Pemberton.
Springfield Mill,
Maidstone, Kent.

Delivering the mails

From Mr. K. Middleton

Sir,—The Post Office spokesman who replied (March 19) to my letter about post codes seemed satisfied that mechanical sorting, so far as it is yet operating, is yielding results. For the public this is just not the case.

Only the other day I received, by second delivery, a letter correctly coded and stamped 1st class that has taken six days to come from Worthing. I suggest it is common experience that coding makes no difference to the speed or reliability of the postal service, while charges soar.

Kenneth R. Middleton
15a Lynedoch Place,
Edinburgh

Economic Diary

TODAY—Weekend public hearings by committee of inquiry into steel dispute. March for "Nuclear Free Future" from Speakers Corner, Hyde Park, to Trafalgar Square—speakers include Mr. David Steel, Liberal Party Leader.

TOMORROW—Mrs. Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, addresses final session of National Consumer Congress. British Actors Equity Association annual meeting, Astoria Theatre, London.

MONDAY—Quarterly analysis of bank advances (mid-February). President Carter's revised Budget goes to Congress. One-day strike by radiographers and therapists. Aston Martin consortium meeting BL management to discuss buying MG cars business. Statement by Rating and Valuation Association on new rate poundages and products. Cunard announcement on completion of QE2 world cruise and details of new programme, Hotel Bristol, London.

TUESDAY—Statement at Leyland National Factory, Workington, on future of plant. Mrs. Sally Oppenheim speaks at Drapers Chamber of Trade luncheon, Cafe Royal, London. New arrangements for UK fixed rate export finance in force. First stage of gas price increases. Animal health restrictions lifted on imports of Dutch pigmeat into Britain. Limit removed on pension scheme refunds to employees. British Government ceases to control Manx Customs and Excise duties. British Airports Authority landing fees up by 35 per cent. Financial Times three-day conference The Future of Sugar opens, Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London. Kuwait total oil production cut by 25 per cent to 1.5m barrels a day. Nigerian Budget.

WEDNESDAY—UK official reserves (March). Capital issues and redemptions (March). Meeting of National Economic Development Council. National Union of Railwaymen pay talks, Unity House, London. Meeting of steel industry craft leaders. Two-monthly gold auction, New York. Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits (Holdings), presents management game awards, Hilton Hotel, London.

THURSDAY — Parliament adjourns for Easter recess. Caledonian Airways annual report.

FRIDAY—National League of Young Liberals Conference opens, Bridlington.

SATURDAY—National Union of Teachers conference opens, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Record half fails to lift Ibstock Johnsen

DESPITE record second-half profits of £3.42m compared with £2.88m, Ibstock Johnsen, brick maker and agent for woodpulp manufacturers, finished 1979 8 per cent down at £4.68m against £5.08m, *in line with expectations.*

After the first-half setback from £2.2m to £1.26m, caused mainly by a deterioration in the results of the Belgian and Dutch subsidiaries, the directors anticipated profits of about £3.25m in the second six months. Belgian losses were expected to total around £1.2m for the full year.

A forecast final of 3p on capital increased by October's rights issue lifts the total dividend to 4.5p net, compared with an equivalent 3.4298p. Dividends absorb £1.13m (£681,078).

The surplus is struck after improved fibres division profits of £289,609 (£247,602) and investment income £244,204 (£143,010), but sharply increased interest charges of £1.09m (£654,680).

Lower tax of £1.83m (£2.43m) leaves the net profit slightly higher at £2.84m (£2.65m). After an extraordinary debit of £159,245 (£78,920 credit) and dividends, £1.55m is retained compared with £2.05m.

Turnover for the year rose from £42.6m to £53.04m, and the directors say profits of the UK building products division increased by 18.5 per cent.

Stated earnings per 25p share, after adjustment for the scrip and rights issues, are 12.48p (12.05p).

● comment

Yesterday's figures from Ibstock Johnsen left the shares unchanged at 65p, the price at which the group pitched last year's unsuccessful rights issue. Second-half profits, up 18.7 per cent pre-tax, are marginally above the group's own forecast but the trading account probably showed a slight dip after stripping out the first time contribution from Glen-Gery, which made the lion's share of the U.S. surplus of £770,000—taken after £780,000 of additional depreciation. The Belgian operation was the main headache with losses of £1.2m, though these should be cut back sharply this year as the least successful plant is being closed. A question mark hangs over the future of the others. The UK side roughly maintained its volume, which is a slightly better performance than the industry average, and is currently enjoying a buoyant period because of the good weather and local authority spending. The second half looks much less promising, however, and the U.S. is very vulnerable to the current interest rate climate. Furthermore, the income gearing will not look so bright and investment income could fall to around £150,000. *In the short term the p/e of 5 may look a little demanding but the yield is a comforting 10.4 per cent.*

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corre-sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
Badulipar Tea	3‖	—	3	3	3
William Boulton ... int.	*0.5*	*May 9*	*0.5*	—	*1.35*
Charles Early	1.89	July 1	1.89	2.21	2.21
Elys (Wimbledon)	3.5	June 2	2.33	4.5	3.07
FC Finance	1.1	*May 24*	1.1	*2.2*	*2.2*
Firmin & Sons	2	June 16	1.37*	3	2.06*
Home Counties News	4.5	May 15	3.5	6.5	5
Charles Hurst	3.3	—	3.3	5.96	5.96
Ibstock Johnsen	3†	May 20	2.05*	4.5†	3.43*
Lake and Elliot ... int.	Nil	—	1.93	—	4.7
Macallan-Glenlivet ... int.	2.25	April 28	2.03	—	5.9
Malayan Tin¶ ... int.	145	May 6	105	—	105
Bernard Matthews	*7.5*	May 16	5.7	14	10.2
N. British Canadian	2.75	June 16	2.05	4.25	3.3
Nth. Broken Hill‡ ... int.	8	June 6	4	—	16
Scottish Met. ... int.	*1.25*	*Aug. 15*	*0.9*	—	2.5
Sharna Ware	2.07	—	1.66	3.33	2.66
S. Malayan Tin¶ ... int.	170	May 6	175	—	175
Wankie Colliery§ ... int.	4	*May 16*	*3*	—	*9*

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated.

* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues. ‡ Australian cents throughout. § Zimbabwe Rhodesian cents throughout. ¶ Malayan sen throughout. ‖ For 1978.

Bazaloni in loss for 1978

The long delayed results of Bazaloni Holdings for 1978 reveal that the tea producer fell from a pre-tax profit of £547,922 into a loss of £82,024. The directors point out that, because of India's foreign exchange regulations, the figures exclude any trading contribution from its interest in that country. A loss of £86,726 arising on Indianisation has been treated as an extraordinary debit (nil).

BIDS AND DEALS

Plessey sells off Portuguese company

Plessey, the UK electronics and telecommunications group, has sold its wholly-owned Portuguese subsidiary, Plessey Portuguesa, to a locally run company, Centrel Electronica Geral Sarl.

Centrel says it will pay Es 110m over the next three years to release the parent company's bank guarantees, and pay back the *subsidiary's debts to Plessey.*

And it will also take over the subsidiary's local bank debts *amounting to Es 375m and pay them off by 1983.*

Centrel, a private company in which the State holds 30 per cent, intends to maintain and streamline Plessey's telecommunications operations in Portugal.

NEB STAKE IN TECHNALOGIES

Through its north west region board, the National Enterprise Board has invested £44,000 in Technalogics Computing, a company established to finance the manufacture and marketing of the marketing of the Technalogics Expandable Computer System (TECS).

TECS has been developed by three Liverpool-based electronic engineers, Mr. A. Polkowski, Mr. M. Siddles and Mr. L. Cook, through their own company, Technalogics Ltd.

The NEB investment comprises a package of 4,000 £1 ordinary shares and 40,000 £1 cumulative redeemable preference shares.

The other shareholders in Technalogics Computing are Technalogics Ltd. with 4,000 ordinary shares and Sapling Enterprises, with 1,100.

DECCA

Holders of Decca have approved the reorganisation of the group's share capital. Its implementation is dependent on the offers by Racal Electronics for the ordinary capital now owned by Racal being declared unconditional in all respects.

PENTAG PURCHASE

Pentag Industrial Holdings has acquired Nottingham Gear Company from the John Folkes Hefo Group.

Sheffield-based Pentag is a leading manufacturer of mechanical power transmission equipment. *The acquisition will* increase the group's capability in heavy duty gears.

Bernard Matthews tops £3.8m despite static second half

VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED second-half profits left the pre-tax surplus of Bernard Matthews ahead from £3.57m to £3.83m in *1979, on increased turnover of £24.52m, against £22.48m.*

Midterm profits were up from £994,000 to £1.42m, and the directors expected the second half to show an increase over last time. In the event, profits for that period were static at £2.41m, against £2.37m.

They now say that profits would have been higher but for excessive production of turkeys on the Continent which, coupled with the strong pound, had the effect of significantly reducing exports. However, this was partially offset by further growth in the turkey meat products division.

The directors add that although it is too early to forecast current year profits, it is clear that turnover will show a considerable increase through expansion in the market for the group's turkey meat products.

The net total dividend is stepped up from 10.2p to 14p, with a final of 7.5p. A one-for-one scrip issue is also proposed. After tax of £1.23m (£1.8m), stated earnings per 25p share are up from 39.12p to 64.96p—SAP has been adopted and comparisons restated.

● comment

Too many turkeys are constricting profits at Bernard Matthews. The group is seeing its German market eroded by French producers whose own domestic market has slumped. At the same time, U.S. turkey imports to the UK are increasing. The numbers are small—perhaps 300,000 in a UK market of 14m birds—but the price competition is sharp. EEC "sluicegate" prices—the minimum landing prices for imported produce—have not been revised for turkeys since 1974. Moves to set a more realistic price should leave Matthews' home market healthier. The drive to diversify out of whole birds and into products looks to have been successful. The group has cut back the planned advertising campaign in the face of higher than expected demand, and product sales are now as high as whole birds. The market, evidently expecting worse, put the shares up 20p to 295p, where they yield 7 per cent on a *fully-taxed historic p/e of 6.2.*

Chas. Hurst declines to £0.53m

HIT BY higher interest and stocking charges of £697,582 against £540,196, pre-tax profits of Charles Hurst, motor trader, fell from £700,493 to £526,982 in 1979.

Operating profits were virtually unchanged at £1.23m (£1.24m) despite difficult trading conditions caused by problems with the Leyland car franchise and a low level of demand for agricultural and industrial equipment, state the directors.

After tax of £185,356 (£413,778), earnings per 25p share are shown as 15.81p *(13.26p).* The dividend is maintained at 5.96p net with an unchanged final of 3.3p.

Turnover advanced from £45.44m to £52.66m.

Reed Intl. makes another sale in South Africa

Reed International has further reduced its few remaining South African interests with the sale of paper merchants Spicers (Pty.) to Barlow Rand for an undisclosed price.

Mr. Bas Kardol, who heads Reed's South African holding company Reed Finance, is to be chairman of Spicers. This company which has offices in all major centres in the country, trades in locally made papers as well as being a substantial importer of high-quality paper.

In August last year Barlow bought Reed's stake in Reed-Nampak Packaging Group and merged it with its own packaging interests.

EXECUTEX CLOTHES

Executex Clothes is acquiring W. J. Fotherby (clothing manufacture) for £400,000 of which £375,000 is cash and the balance shares. Subject to pre-tax profit reaching £56,000 for the 14 months to end 1980 there will be a further maximum payment of £100,000.

Net assets of Fotherby at November 30, 1979, adjusted for property revaluation were £439,433 and pre-tax profit came to £47,286.

The acquisition is subject to the approval of Executex shareholders.

GRA Trust position improving

SHAREHOLDERS of G.R.A. Property Trust, the greyhound racing and property group which has been operating under a Scheme of Arrangement since 1976, were yesterday urged to be patient "a little longer" while the company resolved its problems.

Mr. E. J. Aaronson, chairman, told the annual meeting that the directors were fully committed to bringing the Scheme to an end as soon as possible: "hopefully by the end of the year."

He said the directors had to examine all the possible sources of finance to deal with the secured indebtedness of £5m.

He disclosed that the directors expected that at least £1m will become available when the tax problems over the sale of Coral shares are resolved. He was also hopeful that efforts to secure the future of greyhound racing at White City will be successful.

Referring to the unresolved situation regarding the Kay-Bevan sub-group, the chairman said that the efforts of the Receivers and Liquidators may result in GRA receiving up to £450,000. However, it was possible that further payments may have to be made by GRA to honour previous guarantees.

Mr. Aaronson also reported the sale, for £450,000, of Hook House. Regarding the Bletchley office property, he said that the directors had rejected an offer of £475,000 from Mr. Harold Winton, acting on behalf of an undisclosed offerer.

During the meeting Mr. Winton complained that the accounts did not fully reflect the current value of the fixed assets. He said he had personally paid for a revaluation of the company's properties which had exceeded £15m, compared with net book value of just over £5m at October 31, 1979.

Mr. Aaronson replied that it would not be justified in incurring the cost of a professional revaluation since the properties were all used for trading purposes.

Debenhams directors deny bid rumours

DIRECTORS AT Debenhams, the department stores chain, yesterday told employees they were "confident" there was no truth in rumours that the company was about to get a takeover bid from BAT Industries.

BAT has large department store interests overseas and owns International Stores in the UK.

In a circular to all employees designed to calm their concern over the future of the company, Debenham directors said recent disposals of loss-making businesses were the first stage of a revised strategy adopted last autumn to concentrate expansion in its most profitable areas—department stores, footwear, and toys.

The said the company had been given an assurance from BAT that it was not planning a takeover. And they gave a "hands off" warning to other possible bidders.

The said: "The company is now in a stronger financial position than ever before, and the board is intent on fully utilising that strength to further the trading objectives of Debenhams as an independent company."

ENERGY FINANCE OCEANA

The offer by Energy Finance and General Trust for Oceana Holdings has now been accepted in respect of 249,653 shares. These, when added to the 1,211,290 shares already held by Mr. P. J. Doyle, make 1,460,943 shares (52.85 per cent of the votes attached to shares of Oceana).

An announced yesterday, the offer is unconditional and remains open until April 11.

At today's AGM, it was announced that negotiations would start immediately to agree terms for the acquisition of Hygenol, a company associated with Mr. Doyle. An EGM is expected to be called at the end of April.

Lake & Elliot loss midway but some recovery seen

THE directors of Lake and Elliot, steel castings, valve manufacturer, report a pre-tax loss of £850,000 for the half year *ended January 31, 1980, against* a £757,000 profit, but are confident of achieving profits in the second *six months.* However, it is unlikely that losses will be fully recovered—profits for the whole of 1978-79 were £1.94m.

And the interim dividend has been passed (1.928p), the directors saying that a final payment will depend on the group's performance during the current half—last year's final was 2.772p.

Mr. P. G. Edwards, who succeeded Mr. Lake as chairman last December, says that results were adversely affected by the engineering dispute.

The group's foundries at Braintree and Leven in Scotland were further affected by the worldwide recession in that industry, but the situation has been stabilised, and although the level of orders remains depressed, both foundries are currently achieving profits.

In the valve companies Mr. Edwards says that losses were sustained during the period of the engineering dispute. However, momentum was restored and profits for the current months are back on budget.

Sales fell from £10.35m to £9.46m in the first half, and there was no tax charge, compared with £212,000.

● comment

Given the illiquidity and doubtful prospects of many *second line* engineers, Lake and Elliot's decision to pass the interim dividend looks quite defensible. But Lake has a strong balance sheet, capital spending is not designed to rise appreciably this year and the group is talking optimistically about second half prospects. The foundry division, accounting for over half the interim deficit, is *now* enjoying something of a revival as the important petrochemical and oil customers begin *to come* back a little. The same can be said for the valve division and in both cases the relative strengthening of the dollar has made exports in the important U.S. market that much easier. At the end of the day, Lake should be within striking distance of profitability and may well dip into reserves to pay a reasonable dividend. For the moment, however, the spate of damaging industrial disputes has delayed the final verdict on the effects of loss elimination and important marketing changes in the valves and foundries operations to break what has been an uninspired growth pattern. At 28p, down 12p yesterday, the shares may have found a floor but a buy on recovery *grounds should* be a matter of mid-term judgment.

Home Counties News up

A *SECOND HALF* rise of £187,000, more than matching the increase seen at mid-year, pushed *taxable profits* at Home Counties Newspapers from £955,000 to a record £1.32m for 1979.

However, the company states that higher costs and a more difficult advertising market have reduced profit in the first two months of the current year.

At half-time in 1979 the Luton-based newspaper publisher showed an advance of £174,000 to *£603,000.*

Stated earnings per 25p share for the 12 months were 7.33p better *at 24.78p after a £696,000* (£519,000) tax charge.

A 4.5p final raises the net total dividend to 6.5p (5p).

Sales were up from £7.69m to £9.85m.

Change Wares forecasts £1m loss and passes preference dividend

Change Wares, the wire mesh fittings group, which has recently undergone a big boardroom *reorganisation, hit problems in the* second half of 1979 and is now forecasting a loss of over £1m *for the year. The* convertible preferred dividend due on March 31 is not to be paid.

This setback contrasts with results at the interim stage showing pre-tax profits up from £280,000 to £326,000 coupled with an increase from 0.2p to 0.3p in the dividend.

The company announced yesterday that final results for 1979 were not likely to be available *until mid-May but preliminary* indications were that it suffered a trading loss for the year. As *a result of a number of* non-recurring items the loss will be increased to over £1m.

In January the company had warned that the interim results were not indicative of the results for the full year, *which were* expected to be disappointing. In the second half the company was *affected by the engineering* strike.

In January Mr. Geoffrey Rose, former chairman, resigned from the board along with five other directors *in what was described* as an amicable parting. He joined the group in June 1977 *just after it had plunged into* losses for the first time since it went public in 1970. In 1976-77 *the* group had a loss of £665,000 but by the end of 1977-78 profits of £615,000 had been achieved.

Midterm profits were up at £132,184, against £109,276, and the company said the outlook *was encouraging.*

Mr. Sydney Orchant, the chairman, says the group's *financial position* had been further strengthened and the directors view the future with *confidence.*

With tax charge down at £111,184 (£322,926) stated earnings per 20p share for the half year climbed from 29.94p to 48.64p. The net total dividend is being stepped up 3.3291p (2.6633p) by a 2.0691p final.

The company's new factory is nearing completion and although the removal may cause some disturbance in production, the premises should be a considerable aid to growth, the chairman says.

The manufacturing division had a successful year and its products continue to attract wide popularity. Also, all wholesaling depots are showing *higher profits,* Mr. Orchant reports.

Sharna Ware tops £1m

WITH GROWTH in all its companies *Sharna Ware continued* its expansion in 1979 with a 17.3 per cent advance in taxable profit from £914,980 to a record £1.07m. Sales by the plastic ware and cash and carry *wholesaler* were ahead £1.18m to £15.11m.

Macallan-Glenlivet profit shows 21% increase at six months

HIGHER LEVELS of trading in all activities pushed up taxable profits of Macallan-Glenlivet by 21 per cent to £206,000 in the six months to January 31, 1980, on increased turnover of £1.57m, *against £1.32m.*

The directors say trading levels will continue to improve and even if high interest costs are maintained, full-year profits are expected to show a satisfactory advance over the £502,000 achieved last time.

They add that while production over the comparable six months showed only a slight improvement, a more satisfactory increase is expected for the 1980 Calendar year. Despite a substantial price rise in new fillings from January 1, 1980, it will be difficult to maintain the margin in view of increases in fuel and finance costs.

The net interim dividend is *raised from 2.0301p to 2.25p*—last year's final was 3.8744p.

The pre-tax surplus was struck *after leasing rentals of £32,000* (£10,000), interest of £187,000 (£119,000), and depreciation of *£74,000 (£78,000).*

The directors say the cost of providing the traditional warehousing service may become prohibitive, and they are reviewing its long-term financial viability.

Laying down stock to support growing demand for The Macallan will continue. The directors believe this profitable sector should be developed, even though the cost of servicing the necessary investment may have a temporarily adverse effect on *the net profits.*

(£65,241). The tax charge was up from £160,838 to £183,285.

Earnings per 25p share come to 13.65p compared with *12.47p.*

Elys advances to £347,109

An increase in pre-tax profit from £310,519 to £347,109 has been recorded by Elys (Wimbledon), the department store operator, for the 53 weeks to February 2, 1980.

The final dividend of 3.5p *makes the total for the year 4.5p* compared with 3.07 last time.

At the interim stage profits *had risen from £41,202 to* £66,501.

Sales for 1979-80 rose from *£5.8m to £6.9m*—at halfway they stood at £3.03m—and the interest charge was lower at £46,307

Badulipar in red for 1978

A pre-tax loss has been recorded by the Badulipar Tea Company for 1978 compared with a profit the previous year of £96,439.

The 3p dividend is the same as the previous year. Payment will await receipt of funds from India. The loss on exchange rose from £12,907 to £23,579. The tax charge was £25,836 compared with *£72,662.*

The result excludes any trading contribution from interests in *India* as required by Indian foreign exchange regulations. The loss of £65,443 following *Indianisation* has been treated as an extraordinary item.

HOVERINGHAM

Hoveringham has bought for redemption £355,000 7½ per cent debenture stock 1985-90. Balance of stock outstanding is £2.73m.

Results due next week

Preliminary figures next Wednesday from Guest Keen and Nettlefolds should show a modest rise despite the engineering strike. Against last year's £87.3m in pre-tax profits, analysts are forecasting £90m to £95m for 1979. The reasons behind this include a speedy recovery from the engineering dispute, contributions from acquisitions and in some parts of the group loss elimination. After last year's total net dividend of 17.38p, this time the company might pay as much at 20p.

Analysts are looking for a downturn to £18.5m from last year's £19.14m pre-tax profit when Willis Faber reveals preliminary figures on Wednesday. This *could,* however, be pushed closer to £19m if more optimistic expectations for the Sovereign subsidiary are fulfilled. The net dividend for the year is expected to total 11p. For the current year, analysts are pencilling in £19m—though this would be buoyed by softer sterling.

Full-year profits from Ocean Transport and Trading are due out on Monday. The big question for shareholders is whether there has been sufficient recovery for the directors to recommend an increase in the gross dividend. Analysts suspect that the directors will maintain the gross dividend at 12.4p although they are less certain about the level of profits, estimates of which range from below £16m to £22m, against £10.1m (after ship sale losses last time).

The market is looking for £57m to £60m pre-tax profits from BICC on Wednesday, against 1978's £56.6m. It has been a swings and roundabouts year for the company. Rising copper prices have yielded stock profits which have in turn been eaten away by higher financing charges. Overseas work has been healthy, but dampened by strong sterling. The final net dividend may be around 6.25p, bringing the year's total up to 9p, against 1978's 7.79p. For the current year, profits look tentatively pointed to around a 10 per cent improvement.

Adverse weather conditions last year in the UK will affect the results of Sun Alliance Group more than other insurance companies, for it is the largest house insurer in the UK: Underwriting losses in 1979 could be as high as £25m, against £5m in 1978, with pre-tax profits falling by as much as £10m to around £50m, despite strong investment income growth. However, dividends up by a fifth are anticipated. Poor underwriting results for Phoenix Assurance could offset the rise in investment income and leave pre-tax profits a shade lower at £36m with dividend up by 10-15 per cent.

Other companies reporting during the week include: Glynwed, Booker McConnell, Rockware, Kleinwort Benson Lonsdale, Bridon, London Brick, all with preliminary figures, plus interims from Morgan Crucible.

Company	Announcement due	Dividend (p)* Last year Int.	Last year Final	This year Int.
FINAL DIVIDENDS				
American Trust	Tuesday	0.55	1.0	0.6
Attock Petroleum	Monday	—	—	—
Babcock International	Thursday	2.8312	2.8313	3.4
BBA Group	Monday	0.70216	1.42712†	0.9039s
Berkeley Hambro Property	Wed.	1.75	1.9	2.5
Bestwood Company (The)	*Wed.*	—	*0.9955*	—
BICC	Wed.	2.5	5.29	2.75
Biddle Holdings	Wed.	2.2708t	5.2552	2.4
Black and Edgington	Wed.	2.2	2.7988	2.2
Booker McConnell	Monday	4.006a	3.952	5.0
Brammer (H.)	Tuesday	1.2	3.8	1.8
Breedon and Cloud Hill Lime Works	Thursday	1.6	3.05	2.5
Bridon	Wed.	2.3	4.5595†	2.3
Bruntons (Musselburgh)	Thursday	3.5042b	4.3764†	3.79
Capo Industries	Tuesday	3.2752c	5.9691	3.9
Carron Holdings	Wed.	1.542	2.428	1.7
Combined English Stores	Monday	0.8575	0.95275	1.49
Crosby House Group	Wed.	—	—	—
Desoutter Brothers (Holdings)	Tuesday	2.475	3.685	2.7
Dinkie Heel (The)	Monday	0.14	0.36	0.25
Federated Land and Building	Monday	0.8	1.93	1.0
First Castle Securities	Monday	0.5025	0.603	0.603
Freemans (London SW9)	Monday	*1.05*	1.5195	1.5
Glynwed	Monday	2.45	6.7	2.45
Guest Keen and Nettlefolds	Wed.	5.5889	11.7814	5.8392
Hanger Investments	Wed.	—	0.50857d	1.25
Harris Queensway Group	Wed.	—	2.25	2.0
Hiltons Footwear	Wed.	0.90403	2.76667	1.3
House Property Company of London	Monday	—	2.1	1.0
Hyman (I. and J.)	*Wed.*	*0.375*	*0.5698*	*0.44u*
Jourdan (Thomas)	Thursday	1.005	2.2193	1.05
Jove Investment Trust	Wed.	1.7	1.95†	1.75
Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale	*Wed.*	*1.83743f*	2.80069	2.6
Lilley (F. J. C.)	Wed.	1.11667	1.675	1.54
London Brick	Thursday	1.4434v	2.19023	1.7342
Low and Bonar Group (The)	Monday	4.0	8.1605	5.0g
Macfarlane Group (Clansman)	Monday	1.68	1.7504	2.1
Magnolia Group (Mouldings)	Monday	0.31689w	0.85167	0.6
Miller (Stanley) Holdings	Monday	0.5	0.7	0.6
Morgan Crucible (The)	*Thursday*	3.686‖	2.237†	4.986§
Morrison (Wm.) Supermarkets	Thursday	0.35h	0.657	0.7
Ocean Transport and Trading	Monday	3.9847‡	4.3929	4.2914j
Phoenix Assurance	Wed.	5.2k	6.445	5.8
Reed Executive	*Monday*	0.9	2.45238	1.5
Rockware Group	Thursday	2.2282	3.6678	2.33
Royal Worcester	Wed.	2.4	4.734	2.9
Ryan (L.) Holdings	Thursday	—	—	—
Savoy Hotel ("A" share)	Tuesday	—	1.149m	—
Savoy Hotel ("B" share)	Tuesday	—	0.5745n	—
Silkolene Lubricants	Tuesday	0.86187p	1.6242†	1.122721
Solicitors Law Stationery Society (The)	*Wed.*	*1.474*	—	*0.75*
Southampton, Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet	Tuesday	3.5	7.75	4.0
Sun Alliance and London Assurance	Wed.	11.154q	11.505	13.5
Transatlantic Market Trust	Wed.	—	12.0	—
Unicorn Industries	Tuesday	2.2r	3.9138	2.5
Upton (E.) and Sons	Thursday	0.75	1.737	0.75
Wace Group	Tuesday	*0.625*	0.7935	*1.2*
Watts, Blake, Bearne and Co.	Tuesday	1.125	2.00175	1.3
Wilkinson Warburton	Wed.	1.76	3.95	1.94
Willis Faber	Wed.	3.2104	6.8396	3.5
INTERIM DIVIDENDS				
Arenson (A.) Holdings	Wed.	0.45	1.3	
Beckman (A.)	Thursday	1.95	3.78	
Bryant Holdings	Monday	1.0492	2.9508	
Burns Anderson	Wed.	0.22	1.46	
Elsco Holdings	*Monday*	*0.9*	*2.1*	
Hepworth (J.) and Son	Thursday	0.79	3.0	
Ingall Industries	Tuesday	0.67	1.39	
Martin (R. P.)	Thursday	1.5	1.5	
Newman Tonks Group	Monday	1.5	3.1585	
Saga Holidays	Monday	2.5	5.0	
Wombwell Foundry and Engineering	Thursday	0.374	1.126	
Yarrow	*Wed.*	*1.85*	*5.85*	
INTERIM FIGURES				
Charterhall	Monday			
Emess Lighting	Monday			
Greencoat Properties	Tuesday			
Highland Electronics Group	Tuesday			
Titaghur Jute Factory (The)	*Tuesday*			

* Dividends shown net pence per share and adjusted for any intervening scrip issue. † Second interim. ‡ Includes special interim of 0.0655p. ¶ Includes special interim of 0.07272p. ‖ Includes third interim of 0.033p. § Includes third interim of 0.486p in view of ending dividend controls. The following are compensating dividends included to allow for the change in the tax rate: a 0.056. b 0.0534. c 0.0804. d 0.00581. e 0.05605. f 0.037427. g 0.3655. h 0.007. j 0.1967. k 0.088. m 0.015. n 0.0075. p 0.021873. q 0.154. r 0.0525. s 0.0539. t 0.0708. u 0.0264. v 0.0297. w 0.028369.

SPAIN March 28	%	+ or —
Banco Bilbao	225	+ 3
Banco Central	244	
Banco Exterior	206	
Banco Hispano	220	+ 3
Banco Ind. Cat.	130	
Banco Madrid	154	
Banco Santander	280	
Banco Urquijo	162	— 2
Banco Vizcaya	232	+ 4
Banco Zaragoza	205	+ 2
Dragados	100	
Espanola Zinc	62	+ 1
Fesca	58	+ 0.8
Gal. Preciados	27	— 2
Hidrola.	64.7	
Iberduero	57.7	+ 0.2
Petroleos	108	+ 1.3
Petroliber	59	
Sogefisa	607	
Telefonica	54.5	
Union Elect.	64.0	+ 0.6

RESULTS AND ACCOUNTS IN BRIEF

REA BROTHERS (merchant banking)—Results for 1979 reported March 12. Gross assets £111.2m (£93.2m). Advances to customers £36.9m (£31.03m), acceptances £16.34m (£13.2m). Share capital and reserves *£4.86m (£4.48m). Current assets* £91.71m (£77.06m), current liabilities £91m (£76.52m). Meeting, Winchester House, EC, April 23, noon.

WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER—Surplus for 1979 £132,944 (£311,402) before tax of £28,222 (£33,082). Dividends £67,749 *(same). Forward £429,514 (£412,541).* Current assets £680,701 (£621,264), current liabilities £675,688 (£439,399), including bank overdraft £270,787 (£119,793). Meeting, Christchurch, on April 18, at 3 pm.

BERRY TRUST—Gross income for six months to February 29, *1980,* £627,382 (£327,373); interest and expenses £324,702 (£295,003); *net asset value* per 25p ordinary share 122p (100p), per £100 convertible loan stock £177.22p (£145.33p); loan stock and currency loans £3.79m (£4.22m); earnings per share *1.11p (0.13p).* Company does not pay interim dividends.

BRITISH VITA (polymeric products *manufacturer)—Results for 1979 already* known. Current assets £32.51m *(£22.2m),* current liabilities £26.13m (£16.51m). Increase in working capital £13.02m (£8.82m). CCA profit £6.37m against historic £8.93m. The board intends to extend the group's range of *products in existing markets* and seek new markets. Group's overseas interests provide new outlets for products and technology of Vita-tex, acquired since year end.

CITY AND INTERNATIONAL TRUST—Gross revenue £830,389 (£636,220) for half-year to February 29, 1980. Net earnings £464,499 (£315,884). Expenses £40,433 (£34,725). Interest £85,287 *(£89,381).* Corporation tax £71,127 *(£43,873).* Tax credits imputed to franked income £178,543 (£141,857). Net interim dividend 2.3p (2p) plus special non-recurring payment of 0.49p equivalent to special dividends received from Shell. Earnings per 25p share *3.39p (2.32p). Net asset value 151.5p* (141.3p at August 31, 1979), and 151.3p (141p) after allowing for conversion of unsecured loan stock. As known, Guthrie is *bidding for company.*

BLAGDEN AND NOAKES (HOLDINGS) (containers, plastics, protective equipment and chemicals)—Results for 1979 *already reported.* On CCA basis, pre-tax profits £3.41m (£3.5m) compared with historical £5.65m (£4.95m). Chairman says company plans *record capital* investment this year. It is to install new formaldehyde plant under licence from Perstorp of Sweden, costing £1.5m and this should be in production by mid-1981. Group fixed assets £10.25m (£8.89m), net current assets *£11.2m (£10.11m). Meeting, Connaught* Rooms, WC, April 17, noon.

SANDERSON MURRAY AND ELDER (HOLDINGS) (woolcombers)—Pre-tax profit £31,000 (£4,000 loss) for half-year ended December 31, 1979. Sales £2.22m (£2m). Tax £7,000 *(£7,500). Earnings per 50p share 1.2p (0.6p* loss). Attributable £23,500 (£12,000 loss). Group incurred £11,000 loss for 1978-79—dividend paid 2p (3.485p).

WM. MOWAT AND SONS (property investment)—No dividend (same) for half-year to November 30, 1979. *Pre-tax profit £16,988 (£11,684).* Turnover £134,573 (£78,159). Tax £7,000 (£3,650). Extraordinary debit nil (£3,170). *Stated earnings per 10p* share 0.99p (0.8p).

ALEXANDERS HOLDINGS (Ford main dealer)—Results for year ended September 30, 1979, reported February 26, in preliminary statement with prospects. Group fixed assets £4.27m *(£3.74m). Net current assets* £1.42m (£1.22m)—bank overdraft £2.12m (£1.12m). Highest paid director's emoluments £21,196 (£12,816). Meeting, Edinburgh, April 18, noon.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRIAL TRUST—For half year ended January 31, 1980, *turnover £131,470 (£98,129).* Profit £57,172 (£53,864) before tax £29,729 (£27,905). Earnings 2.13p (2.00p). Results considered satisfactory. Demand for development finance facilities continued, resulting in a considerable increase in the income. Hire *purchase and leasing operations* continuing to progress. Further increases in rental income negotiated and will be reflected in *results* for next *six months.* Negotiations recently completed with National Westminster Bank, extending medium term loan facility by four years. Directors expect to increase dividend (1.2p paid in 1978-79 from profits of £107,928).

NEW LONDON PROPERTIES (*subsidiary of Pearl Assurance Company*)—Final 6p making 9p (7.25p) net per 25p share for 1979. Revenue £1.56m (£1.19m) before tax £740,408 (£570,738).

NORTH BRITISH CANADIAN INVESTMENT COMPANY—Final dividend of *2.75p net making 4.25p (3.3p) for year* to February 28, 1980. Gross revenue £520,378 (£426,014). Earnings per 25p share 4.89p (3.63p). Net asset value per share 120.6p (103.8p).

FIRST SCOTTISH AMERICAN TRUST COMPANY—Results for year ended *February 1, 1980,* reported February 21. Investments totalled £41.37m (£45.67m) Unrealised appreciation of investments £19.14m *(£23.86m).* Net current liabilities £163,431 (£1.02m assets)—bank balances £183,472 (£901,695). Directors continuing policy of maintaining substantial stake in major overseas markets. Meeting, Dundee, April 22, noon.

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SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

Sun Oil, the U.S. major, delivered the knockout blow in the *bid battle for* **Viking Oil** *by increasing* its original 400p per share cash offer for the company to 625p. The offer has been irrevocably accepted by holders of 51 per cent of the shares. As with the other *earlier bids for Viking*, from Deminex and Hunt International (UK), Sun's offer includes a royalty unit in addition to the cash element.

R. and J. Pullman increased its stake in loss-making furrier and leather manufacturer **Bernard Paradise** from 29 per cent to 62.9 per cent. Accordingly, under Takeover Panel rules, Pullman *is extending an offer for the rest of the Paradise shares* at 10p each, the same price Pullman paid for its original stake last October.

Butchers Lidstone is in talks with Mr. Jack Walker and associates which may lead to a 280p per share offer for the company.

Bridon, the steel wire and wire ropes company, plans to sell *its interest in* **Haggie**, *its South African associate*, to Scaw Metals, a subsidiary of Anglo American Industrial Corporation and Union Corporation, for R57m (£32m).

Godfrey Davis is selling its UK, *Dutch and Spanish car hire* interests to **Europcar**, the vehicle rental arm of Renault, for £22m. Under the terms of the deal, Godfrey Davis will be reorganised to form two new holding companies, a hire company for which *Europcar will bid*, and a trade company, which will be retained. Existing Godfrey Davis shareholders will receive a cash payment of 115p per share for the hire company.

Marsh and McLennan of the U.S. *surmounted a major hurdle* in its attempt to win control of **C. T. Bowring** when the Secretary for Trade announced that the bid would not be referred to the Monopolies Commission. Marsh's *offer is currently worth* approximately 156p per share.

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder	Final Acc't'ce date
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.						
Bowring (C. T.)	156§§	136	141	170.8	Marsh and McLennan	—
City & Intl. Tst.	173	126	126††	23.59	Guthrie	—
CompAir	103§§	102	95½	56.98	I. C. Gas	—
Cray Elect.	37*§	37	35††	0.93	Thrgmrtn. Tst.	—
Decca	630	625	355	45.54	Racal Electronics	1/4
Decca 'A'	525	518	320	60.80	Racal Electronics	1/4
Doloi Tea	270*	280	215	0.29	Tategold	—
Furness Withy	420*	373	332	112.5	C. Y. Tung	—
Hendersn.-Kenton	223§§	212	118	14.30	Harris Queensway	—
Hoffnung (S.)	80*	80½	74½	14.10	Burns Philp	11/4
Lond. & Prvncl. Poster	500*§	478	287††	9.12	Reed Intl.	—
Maple	30§§	31	27½	8.40	Waring & Gillow	—
Mrgn. Edwards¶¶	121§§	118	123	4.19	Edwrds. (L C)	—
Nationwide Leisure	6*§	6½	9	0.66	Rantlodge	—
Norrington (H.)	21*	22½	16††	0.80	Burgess (F H)	2/4
Norwest Holst	145§	130	118††	5.67	Wexcourt	—
Paradise (B.)	10*§	17	24††	8.87	Pullmn. (R. J.)	—
Polly Peck¶¶	9*	20½	7½	0.47	Restro Inv.	31/3
Royco	50*	39	41	5.00	Bonnerpark	—

Company bid for	Value of bid per share**	Market price**	Price before bid	Value of bid £m's**	Bidder	Final Acc't'ce date
Serk	77½*	70	74½	32.95	Rockwell	—
Status Discount	75	67	69††	30.0	MFI	—
Turner (W.E.)	87½*	82	48††	9.07	J. Hepworth	—
Viking Oil	300*‡	£10⅝	810	—	Deminex	—
Viking Oil	625‡*	£10⅝	910††	—	Sun Co.	—
Viking Oil	450*‡	£10⅝	£10½	—	Hunt. Int. Petroleum	—
Wardle (B.)¶¶	33*§	28	28½	4.15	Ferguson Invs.	—

* All cash offer. † Cash alternative. ‡ Partial bid. § For capital *not already held.* ¶ *Combined market capitalisation.* ‖ *Date on* which scheme is expected to become operative. ** Based on 26/3/80. †† At suspension. ‡‡ Estimated. §§ Shares and cash. ¶¶ Unconditional. ‡ Plus royalties.

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Interim dividends* per share (p)	
A. B. Electronic	Dec.	395	(581)	3.0	(2.5)
Banks (Sidney C.)	Nov.	569	(545)	1.75	(1.5)
Beazer (C. H.)	Dec.	1,580	(521)	2.2	(1.9)
Bell (Arthur)	Dec.	9,190	(8,670)	2.12	(1.77)
Brit. Car Auction	Jan.	1,120	(785)	—	(—)
Blue Bird	Dec.	241	(327)	1.45	(1.26)
Centrovincial	Sept.	517	(564)	1.0	(—)
Chmbrs. & Fargus	Dec.	84	(101)	0.25	(0.25)
Fairview Estates	Dec.	4,800	(2,340)	3.3	(2.75)
HME	Dec.‡	23,320	(23,753)	2.5	(1.5)
Kwahu	Dec.	54	(21)	—	(—)
Lucas Industries	Jan.	12,320	(24,090)	2.6	(2.57)
Mucklow (A. & J.)	Dec.	1,700	(1,400)	1.6	(1.32)
Park Place Invs.	Dec.	262	(229)	1.25	(1.0)
Paterson Zochonis	Nov.	8,925	(9,431)	3.6	(3.3)
Ricardo Engrs.	Dec.	551	(501)	3.0	(2.75)
Samuel Props.	Dec.	1,910	(1,320)	1.1	(1.0)
Seascope Hldgs.	Nov.	579	(582)	—	(—)
Sirdar	Jan.	1,670	(1,480)	2.0	(1.0)
Standard Ind.	Dec.	225	(165)	0.9	(1.91)
Wiggins Const.	Sept.	243	(161)	0.95	(0.83)

(Figures in parentheses are for corresponding period.)

Dividends shown net except where otherwise stated.

* *Adjusted for any intervening scrip issue.* † *Profit for the* year. ‡ For nine months. ¶ Excluding bank. ‖ For 15 months. L Loss.

† Approximate figure before expenses.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Mid Southern Water Company: Offer for sale by tender of £5m 10 per cent redeemable preference stock 1985 at a minimum price of £98 per cent.

Rights Issues

Brent Chemicals: Rights issue 12.71m ordinary 10p shares at 30p per share on the basis of one new share for each ordinary share held to raise £3.8m.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£000)		Earnings* per share (p)		Dividends* per share (p)	
Alexndr. Howden	Dec.	20,120	(17,730)	12.8	(12.1)	7.0	(7.0)
APV Holdings	Dec.	19,030	(18,120)	42.3	(41.3)	8.4	(6.48)
Appleyard Group	Dec.	652	(1,950)	6.0	(17.5)	4.25	(6.25)
Arncliffe Hldgs.	Oct.	656	(656)	—	(—)	2.66	(2.01)
Assocd Book	*Dec.*	*2,953*	*(3,371)*	*34.4*	*(46.6)*	*7.5*	*(5.13)*
Bambers Stores	Feb.	4,070	(2,790)	13.8	(9.6)	2.0	(1.11)
Bemrose Corpn.	Dec.	1,110	(2,400)	7.9	(18.6)	4.47	(4.27)
Bestobell	Dec.	6,420	(4,900)	30.8	(27.0)	11.0	(9.6)
Brent Chemicals	Dec.	3,020	(2,660)	15.6	(12.5)	4.5	(3.75)
British Mohair	Dec.	1,520	(2,830)	8.9	(11.5)	3.77	(3.14)
Canning (W.)	Dec.	912	(334)	9.0	(6.6)	3.98	(3.9)
Carpets Intl.	Dec.	2,020	(4,480)	4.5	(13.4)	2.5	(5.0)
Cartwright (R.)	Dec.	1,130	(931)	10.4	(11.0)	4.63	(4.06)
Chrtrhse. Group	Dec.¶	10,346	(11,359)‖	9.3	(8.3)‖	4.1	(4.61)‖
Cliffords Dairies	Dec.	2,280	(1,490)	17.9	(11.7)	3.0	(2.13)
Coates Brothers	*Dec.*	*8,500*	*(9,420)*	*10.7*	*(11.7)*	*3.0*	*(2.6)*
Collins (Wm.)	Dec.	255L	(3,345)	—	(20.1)	—	(5.18)
Dufay Bitumastic	Dec.	611	(863)	4.7	(4.8)	2.65	(3.35)
Eagle Star Hldgs.	Dec.	64,300	(50,900)	15.3	(13.8)	9.0	(6.84)
Expanded Metal	Dec.	2,530	(2,320)	8.6	(7.7)	4.5	(4.1)
Fife Forge	Dec.	269	(338)	13.7	(10.5)	3.3	(2.49)
Friedland Doggart	Dec.	1,480	(1,770)	14.1	(13.6)	4.45	(3.49)
Garton Engng.	Dec.	863	(990)	23.5	(26.1)	6.65	(6.52)
Hawley Leisure	Dec.	521	(22)	6.5	(0.3)	0.8	(0.1)
House of Fraser	Jan.	37,150	(40,490)	15.0	(17.4)	6.0	(4.44)
Jamesons Chocs.	Dec.	517	(516)	12.7	(9.8)	4.0	(3.63)
Lane (Percy)	*Dec.*	*161*	*(303)*	*1.8*	*(3.0)*	*1.75*	*(3.31)*
LASMO	Dec.	23,440	(10,730)L	12.7	(—)	—	(—)
Legal & General	Dec.	17,500	(20,800)	10.7	(10.3)	7.6	(6.5)
Leyland Paint	Dec.	1,679	(2,551)	12.9	(12.3)	3.0	(3.04)
Lovell (G. F.)	*Oct.*	*338*	*(348)*	*20.6*	*(24.0)*	*8.0*	*(2.0)*
Lyon & Lyon	Dec.	780	(622)	17.3	(18.8)	7.0	(6.0)
Manders Hldgs.	Dec.	2,850	(3,440)	14.9	(15.8)	4.4	(3.31)
Mixconcrete	Nov.	2,310	(2,070)	11.5	(10.6)	4.05	(3.57)
Municipal Props.	Dec.	285	(198)	29.1	(19.8)	6.5	(5.6)
Nash (William)	Dec.	682	(662)	108.4	(102.4)	12.0	(10.24)
Ofrex Group	Dec.	5,040	(4,919)	17.8	(17.6)	4.4	(3.6)
Prudential Corpn.	Dec.	45,600†	(41,200)†	15.3	(13.8)	9.5	(8.0)
ueens Moat	Dec.	682	(446)	2.4	(1.2)	0.75	(0.52)
Quick (H. & J.)	Dec.	1,161	(1,026)	19.5	(18.1)	2.29	(1.83)
Reckitt & Colman	Dec.	54,010	(61,300)	22.8	(27.8)	8.5	(5.93)
Reed (Austin)	*Jan.*	*3,290*	*(3,220)*	*12.3*	*(13.3)*	*4.8*	*(4.0)*
Rotork	Dec.	3,181	(3,303)	8.1	(9.7)	2.0	(1.31)
Slough Estates	Dec.	10,070	(8,228)	5.6	(4.1)	2.3	(1.69)
Spirax Sarco	Dec.	6,620	(5,910)	19.0	(20.3)	6.5	(5.0)
Stag Furniture	Dec.	3,350	(2,290)	69.6	(37.1)	10.0	(6.5)
Thurgar Bardex	Dec.	391	(449)	3.4	(4.1)	0.9	(0.57)
Utd. Newspapers	Dec.	8,190	(6,880)	58.9	(53.3)	24.0	(15.61)
Western Motor	Dec.	366L	(240)	—	(8.9)	1.0	(2.46)
Williams & James	Dec.	452	(781)	35.8	(35.9)	3.72	(3.67)
Wills (George)	Dec.	1,180	(1,020)	16.0	(16.8)	4.5	(3.35)
Wlstnhlme Rink	Dec.	1,930	(1,880)	24.8	(26.5)	5.75	(5.0)
Wolf Tools	*Dec.*	*2,669*	*(2,969)*	*10.4*	*(11.1)*	*2.6*	*(1.5)*
Yorkshire Chems.	Dec.	910	(1,110)	2.7	(4.9)	4.85	(4.84)

Scrip Issues

Bambers Stores: One for two.

George Wills and Sons (Holdings): One for four.

Spirax Sarco: One for two.

Stag Furniture: *Five ordinary and two 10 per cent £1 cumulative* preference shares for every five ordinary shares.

WANKIE COLLIERY COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in Zimbabwe Rhodesia)

DIVIDEND No. 111

The directors today declared an interim dividend No. 111 in respect of the year ending 31st August, 1980 of 4 cents per share, payable to shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 18th April, 1980. Dividend warrants will be posted on or about 15th May, 1980.

The transfer registers in Zimbabwe Rhodesia, the United Kingdom and South Africa will be closed from 19th to 25th April, 1980 inclusive.

Zimbabwe Rhodesian non-resident shareholders' tax at the rate of 20 per cent will be deducted from the dividend where applicable.

Estimated results for the half year ended 29th February, 1980, and the results for the previous year and corresponding previous half year are as follows:—

	Half Year ended 29.2.80	Half Year ended 28.2.79	Year ended 31.8.79
SALES	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes
Coal	1 286 872	1 153 710	2 221 304
Coke	125 900	91 302	201 471
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS	$000	$000	$000
Trading profit	3 805	1 952	4 205
Net interest and dividends receivable	404	295	683
Profit before taxation	4 209	2 247	4 888
Taxation	1 460	656	1 500
Profit after taxation	2 749	1 591	3 388
Dividend	1 013	760	2 280
Earnings per share	10.85 cents	6.28 cents	13.38 cents
Dividend per share	4 cents	3 cents	9 cents

This dividend is declared in the currency of Zimbabwe Rhodesia. Payments from the United Kingdom and South Africa will be made in the equivalents of the Zimbabwe Rhodesian value at the rates of exchange ruling at the close of business on 6th May, 1980.

Those shareholders whose dividends have until now been blocked in terms of exchange control regulations are advised that whilst the authorities have relaxed exchange control restrictions on this and future dividends, no decision has yet been made on the release of amounts in respect of dividends previously paid into blocked accounts.

Comments on Unaudited Financial Results

The increase in local prices granted from 1st August, 1979 and better export prices, although eroded by increased costs, are the principal reasons for the improvement in the profit; the higher level of sales and production recoveries also *made significant contributions.*

The Department of Taxes is seeking to change the basis on which depletion allowance to the company is calculated and a contingent liability resulting therefrom was noted in the accounts of the company for the year ended 31st August, 1979. If the department succeeds in establishing a new basis, the charge for taxation for the half year ended 29th February, 1980 will need to be increased by a further $335 000.

By order of the Board
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
Secretaries
Per: J. R. Parker

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28th March, 1980

Scottish Metropolitan almost doubled

PRE-TAX profit of Scottish Metropolitan Property Company, property owning investment concern, almost doubled for the half-year ended February 15, 1980, from £809,042 to £1.59m. The interim dividend is increased to 1.25p net per share, compared with 0.9p.

The directors are confident that profits for the full year will be such as to enable them to implement their policy of progressive annual dividend increases—last year's total was 2.5p paid from profits of £2.01m.

Property revenue increased from £1.67m to £2.09m, and investment income and interest received rose to £511,370 (*£113,068*).

First-half tax charge took £823,231, compared with 343,494 and an amount of £268,506 (£165,164) went to reserves.

There was a £296,499 (£139,324) surplus realised, after tax, on property sales.

Mr. David Malcolm, chief investment manager of the Royal Insurance Company, and Mr. R. B. Jack, a senior partner *in* McGregor, Donald and Company, solicitors, and professor of mercantile law at Glasgow University, have been appointed directors.

Mr. Malcolm succeeds Mr. Derek Warbrick who has resigned due to increased commitments.

A new group financial director will be announced shortly. Mr. John Ware, previously finance director of the group's retail division, has been appointed company secretary.

The announcement follows a series of boardroom changes after the company disclosed in January that it was trading at a loss. These included the resignation of Mr. Neville Johnson, the former chairman and chief executive, and three other directors.

Kitchen Queen man resigns

Mr. Malcolm Roussak has resigned as financial director and company secretary of Kitchen Queen Group, the *furniture* manufacturer and retailer.

First-half losses for Lister

TRADING PROFITS of Lister *and Company fell by £0.56m to* £1.05m in the half-year to September 29, 1979, and, after sharply higher interest, the group ran into losses of £141,000 at the pre-tax level. This compares with a profit of £810,000 last time.

The directors say continuing depression in the textile industry has involved the group in considerable losses closing unprofitable operations. *The benefits can* be expected to show in the 1980/1981 accounts, they add. In the last full year, pre-tax profits totalled £1.14m (£1.49m).

Turnover amounted to £19.49m (£19m) for the half-year. The interest *charge jumped from* £456,000 to £770,000.

Losses per 25p share are given as 1p, compared with earnings of 4.71p. After tax of £10,000 (£21,000), and extraordinary debits of £261,000 (£250,000), there were losses of £412,000 (£539,000 profit).

Future annual rental income will be about £1.1m, against £375,000 previously, the directors say.

Norfolk Capital warning

THE DESIRE to reduce the heavy interest burden at Norfolk Capital Group was the main *reason for selling the Eros and* Eccleston Hotels and the Southway Staff Hostel, Mr. Maxwell Joseph, the chairman, told the AGM.

On current trading, he said, figures for this year were likely *to show a decline, partly* due to the interest charges and also to the fact that the two Fairway Inns, now being refurbished, might not be completed in time to obtain the full benefit of the high season. He did, however, remain optimistic about the long-term future and profitability of the company.

Camrex shares fall 7p on board rumours

A *MAJOR boardroom row* appears to have broken out at Camrex, the Sunderland-based specialised coating manufacturer, corrosion engineer and contractor.

The shares fell 7p to a low for *the year of 32p yesterday amid* rumours that Mr. John Witter, the chief executive, had resigned over policy disagreement. The directors of Camrex, who were believed to have had a series of meetings yesterday, including one with merchant bank Kleinwort Benson, were not available for comment.

The cause of the row is under*stood to relate to differences of* emphasis on the contracting side of the business.

In September 1979 the group announced first half 1979 profits up from a depressed £31,000 to £239,000, struck after a £250,000 *provision for loss on a U.S. con*tract undertaken by a marine contracting subsidiary.

This would be the second major boardroom upheaval in under two years for Camrex, which a year ago failed to pursue *an unwilling Dufay Bitumastic* after acquiring 29.75 per cent in the company. In October 1978 Mr. Alex G. Cameron and Mr. A. W. R. Cameron, father and son, resigned from the board over a major difference on future policy.

Interest hits FC Finance

VASTLY increased interest charges pushed pre-tax profit at FC Finance down from £1.83m to £430,000 for 1979, although turnover advanced from £56.6m to £60.6m.

The interest rose from £4.6m to *£7.2m.*

The final dividend of 1.1p makes the total 2.2p, the same as last year. Taxable profit at halfway was down at £410,000 (£940,000).

Associated companies con*tributed £100,000 to the pre-tax* figure compared with £24,000 last year. The tax charge was more than doubled at £97,000 (£42,000).

Earnings per 25p share were 4.3p against 25p last time.

Pru lifts bonus

The Prudential Assurance Company, a member of the Prudential Corporation, has declared higher rates of reversionary and terminal bonus on with-profits contracts, following the end-1979 valuation.

The reversionary bonus rate on ordinary branch assurances is *lifted by 30p to £4.90 per cent* of the sum assured. The terminal bonus scale for death or maturity claims from April 1, *1980* ranges from £15.70 per cent of the sum assured for year of entry 1970 to £195 per cent for year of entry 1930 or earlier. The previous scale ranged from £12.40 to £164.30 per cent.

On individual personal retire*ment plans, mainly for the self-*employed, the reversionary bonus rate is improved by 40p to £7.50 per cent of the basic benefit. The *terminal bonus scale is improved* for the longer duration policies, the new rates being £20 per cent of the basic benefit and attaching bonuses for 10 years in force to £74 per cent for 32 years. The previous scale varied from £20 to £65 per cent.

The bonus rate on group pension business is lifted by 50p to £5.70 per cent compound, but the *terminal bonus rate remains* unchanged at £2 per cent for each premium year.

In the industrial branch, the reversionary bonus rate is raised by 20p to £3.20 per cent of the sum assured, while the terminal bonus *scale varies from £14.40* per cent of the sum assured for entry year 1970 to £173.50 for 1930 or earlier, compared with *£11.30 to £147 per cent* previously.

Increased rates of bonus for certain classes of business written overseas have been declared.

Tioxide soars £10.8m in firmer market

Forecasts of the preliminary results which **Lead Industries** will publish on April 10 will have been bolstered by a strong performance from its 50 per cent owned titanium pigment associate, **Tioxide Group**.

Half-owned with ICI, Tioxide *made £15.68m pre-tax last year*, against £4.91m after a doubled half-time contribution of £3.3m. Earnings after tax of £5.13m come out at 31.4p against 6.7p per share.

Firmer market conditions promoted healthier margins, with particular emphasis on the second half of the year as raw material supplies eased. More *than half the annual trading* profits stemmed from overseas companies but the Board stress that the present level of profitability is still inadequate to sustain the level of investment required for future growth.

W. Boulton dives at mid-term

THE ENGINEERING strike, pressure on margins, and increased depreciation and interest, left taxable profits of ***William Boulton Group sharply*** lower in the half year to December 31, 1979, at £293,763, against £756,242.

The directors of this engineering concern said at the annual meeting last December that little profit was made in the first quarter. They now say a loss was incured during that period.

However, second quarter *trading showed an increase in* turnover of 38 per cent over the first three months and a return to more reasonable profit levels.

Order books in the third quarter have been reasonable in the circumstances, but the directors feel unable to forecast the full-year outcome because of the steel strike. Pre-tax profits amounted to £896,000 (£1.36m) in 1978-79.

Turnover for the half year rose from £11.4m to £13.06m. Tax took £90,000 against £270,000.

The net interim dividend is held at 0.5p—last year's final was 0.85p.

Pre-tax profits were struck after depreciation of £223,401 (£136,112), and interest of £353,479 (£153,630).

Sheepbridge deb. exchange

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds (UK) proposes that debenture stocks of Sheepbridge Engineering, which GKN acquired in 1979, be exchanged for equal amounts of *guaranteed debenture stock of* GKN (UK).

The stocks will have provisions as to redemption dates and sinking fund similar to those of the relevant Sheepbridge stocks, and will bear interest in each case ½ per cent higher. Meetings called for April 25.

EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

Series		April Vol.	April Last	July Vol.	July Last	Oct. Vol.	Oct. Last	Stock
AKZ C	F.22.50	15	0.40	61	1.20	120	1.70	F.21.40
AKZ C	F.25	—	—	—	—	26	1	"
AKZ C	F27.50	—	—	13	0.30	—	—	"
AKZ P	F.22.50	—	—	18	2.20	—	—	"
AKZ P	F.25	3	3.50	—	—	6	4.80	"
AKZ P	F.27.50	—	—	10	7	—	—	"
ARB C	F.55	10	0.80	—	—	—	—	F.52.60
EK C	$50	10	⅝	—	—	—	—	$47¼
HEI C	F.70	10	0.40	—	—	—	—	F.63
HEI C	F.75	—	—	—	—	3	2	"
HO C	F.17.50	—	—	—	—	12	1.70	F.17
IBM C	$60	10	1⅛	3	3⅞	—	—	$57¼
IBM C	$65	2	⅛	10	2⅜	—	—	"
KLM C	F.60	30	1.90	80	4.40	6	5.20	F.58.70
KLM C	F.70	11	0.10	38	1.60	60	2	"
KLM C	F.80	—	—	12	0.30	3	1	"
KLM C	F.90	—	—	2	0.20	—	—	"
KLM P	F.60	80	3	82	5.60	2	7	"
KLM P	F.70	64	10.80	7	12.50	—	—	"
KLM P	F.80	17	21	11	21	—	—	"
NN C	F.110	—	—	111	1.80	3	3.50	F.101.80
NN C	F.115	—	—	15	1	—	—	"
NN C	F.120	—	—	—	—	5	1.10	"
NN P	F.115	1	13.13	—	—	—	—	"
PET C	Fr.5000	4	80	—	—	—	—	Fr.4610
PET C	Fr.5500	4	10	2	100	—	—	"
PET C	Fr.6000	—	—	1	50	—	—	"
PET P	Fr.5500	2	850	—	—	—	—	"
PHI C	F.17.50	—	—	2	0.70	125	1.10	F.16.70
PHI C	F.20	—	—	10	0.30	61	0.50	"
PHI C	F.17.50	40	0.80	5	1.80	20	2	"
PHI P	F.20	1	3.20	—	—	—	—	"
RD C	F.140	—	—	2	11	1	13	F.147.70
RD C	F.145	68	4.60	50	8.30	4	10	"
RD C	F.150	242	2.50	119	5.20	39	7.50	"
RD C	F.160	189	0.60	256	3.20	148	4.80	"
RD C	F.170	55	0.10	489	1.30	—	—	"
RD P	F.140	323	1.70	101	6.50	—	—	"
RD P	F.145	281	3.20	40	8.20	10	11	"
RD P	F.150	103	4.80	3	11	2	14.50	"
RD P	F.160	121	13.80	10	18.50	—	—	"
RD P	F.170	—	—	1	26	—	—	"
UNI C	F.115	—	—	11	1	—	—	F.103
UNI C	F.125	—	—	5	0.40	—	—	"
UNI C	F.105	—	—	17	7.20	—	—	"
UNI C	F.110	3	7.80	10	11.20	—	—	"
XON C	$55	6	2⅞	—	—	—	—	$55⅜
XRX C	$50	4	4⅜	—	—	—	—	$52⅝
		May		Aug.		Nov.		
BA C	$45	6	11¼	—	—	—	—	$54⅜
BA C	$50	12	8⅛	—	—	—	—	"
BA C	$60	—	—	10	6⅝	—	—	"
OXY C	$20	10	3⅛	—	—	—	—	$22⅞
SLB P	$100	—	—	1	13	—	—	$101⅝
SLB C	$110	—	—	4	8⅝	—	—	"

TOTAL VOLUME IN CONTRACTS 3903

C=Call P=Put

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1979-80 High	1979-80 Low	Company	Price	Change	Gross Div (p)	Yield %	P/E
99	65	Airsprung	65	−2	6.7	10.3	3.8†
58	29	Armitage and Rhodes	29	−2	3.8	13.1	2.0†
255	188	Bardon Hill	255	+2	13.8	5.4	7.5†
100	80	County Cars 10.7% Pf.	80	−2	15.3	19.1	—
101	83	Deborah Ord.	98	+1	5.0	5.1	10.8
109	88	Frank Horsell	105	+2	7.9	7.5	8.8
129	98	Frederick Parker	105	+2	12.8	12.2	4.8†
156	102	George Blair	105	+1	16.5	15.6	—
70	45	Jackson Group	70	—	5.2	7.4	4.1†
153	113	James Burrough	114	−1	7.2	6.3	10.0
300	242	Robert Jenkins	260	+5	31.3	12.0	3.3†
250	176	Torday	218	—	14.3	6.6	5.8†
34	14½	Twinlock Ord.	14½	−½	0.8	5.8	2.8†
80	70	Twinlock 12% ULS	76	+1	12.0	15.8	—
55	33	Unilock Holdings	45	+2	2.6	5.5	10.0
98	82	Walter Alexander	95	+2	4.7	4.5	8.4
190	136	W. S. Yeates	184	+2	12.1	6.6	3.0†

† Accounts prepared under provisions of SSAP 15.

CORAL INDEX: Close 419-424 (−3)

Companies and Markets

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Early 8.5 rally on Wall St.

PRICES ROSE in active early trading on Wall Street yesterday continuing the late surge of Thursday that nearly erased a steep mid-afternoon slide.

By 1 pm the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 8.54 to 768.52, reducing its loss on the week to 16.63, while the NYSE All Common Index, at $56.12, gained 82 cents on the day but was still off $2.12 on the week. *Advances led declines by a four-to-one majority*, while the trading volume decreased 2.84m shares to 32.78m compared with 1 pm Thursday.

The market moved higher through the morning as investor nervousness about silver markets abated.

The Prime Rate rose to 19½ per cent yesterday and the Federal Reserve is maintaining a very tight credit policy. Meanwhile, the New York Commodities Exchange said all members met their financial obligations on futures contracts last night.

Trading in the stock of **Bache Group**, which issued a $100m Margin Call Wednesday on Hunt family-controlled silver positions, remained halted. Other Brokerage stocks were mostly firmer. **Shearson Loeb Rhoades** gained $2¼ to $21⅜.

Silver and Gold shares rebounded. **Hecla Mining** added $3¼ at $24¾. **Callahan Mining** $3⅝ at $31⅞ and **Sunshine Mining** $2 at $11⅞. **ASA** rose $1½ to $39½. **Dome Mines** $3⅞ to $54⅞ and **Homestake Mining** $1 to $40¼.

Among Coppers, **Asarco** rose $3½ to $29 and **Kennecott** $1⅞ to $27¼.

The Oil group was mostly higher and some Blue Chips gained. **Exxon** rose $¼ to $56½. **Louisiana Land** $3 to $36½. **Pennzoil** 2½ to $36½. **Murphy Oil** $5¼ to $81 and **Mesa Petroleum** $2¼ to $47¾. But **Texaco** lost $⅝ to $32⅞ and **Gulf** $⅞ to $38¼.

American Exchange prices bounced back from a record decline Thursday. The Market Value Index rose 10.24 to 225.93, reducing its fall on the week to 26.85.

Closing prices for North *America* were not available for this edition.

Canada

Markets were sharply and broadly higher in fairly active noon trading yesterday, when bargain hunting was widespread after Thursday's record slide.

The Toronto Composite Index recovered 58.7 to 1,761.2, and all other indices rallied.

The Gold Share Index recouped 103.9 to 2,657.6. Oil and Gas 211.5 to 3,768.5, Metals and Minerals 56.5 to 1,771.9. Utilities 8.21 to 225.33, Banks 6.75 to 289.35 and Papers 1.08 to 172.50.

Paris

Prices eased in active trading, reflecting Wall Street's overnight trend.

Bankings, Insurances, Rubbers, Engineerings and Chemicals led the decline, Real Estates, Investment Portfolios and Oils were steady, while Constructions and Motors were mixed.

Germany

Most leading shares easier.

The sharpest drops were suffered by Electricals, Chemicals and Machines.

BASF were able to resist the general depression and lost only DM 0.8 buoyed by its intermediate report released Thursday announcing that pre-tax profits had soared 46.6 per cent for the parent company and 48.2 per cent for the group.

Stores firmed slightly against *the trend*.

Switzerland

Steady after early signs of a technical recovery was erased.

Banks were mixed, Insurances narrowly mixed, while Financials were steady.

Von Roll fell SwFr 48 to SwFr 501.

Foreign Bonds tended partly firmer but Domestic Bonds eased in low volume.

Dollar stocks traded below overnight New York closing levels, Germans fell, while Dutch Internationals were narrowly mixed.

Amsterdam

Mainly lower in nervous trading following the overnight uncertainty on Wall Street.

Ahold rose Fl 1.5 to 69 after its forecast of 1980 profits being *similar to last year*.

State Loans were weaker, with the latest 11.5 per cent issue falling below 100 after being issued at 100.5.

Tokyo

Prices generally eased in light trading as investors expressed concern over the confusion on Wall Street Thursday and continued easing of the yen on Foreign Exchange Markets.

Steels, Heavy Industries and Shipbuildings were broadly sold. Trading Houses, Paper-Pulps, Constructions, and Machineries also eased.

But some Blue Chips, Light Electricals and Coals firmed.

Dowa Mining declined Y43 to Y682 along with other non-Ferrous Metals, affected by a steep drop in Commodity Market prices overseas. One broker said the decline was apparently due to market rumours that the Hunts, a major speculative investor group in the U.S., was apparently behind trading in non-Ferrous Metal stocks. The Hunts was reported having suffered huge losses in the Silver Market.

Mitsui Mining gained Y70 to Y725 on market rumours that it's now close to an agreement on *coal mining development project* in China. **Sumitomo Coal Mining** went up Y30 to Y337.

Fuji Photo Film and **Konishiroku Photo Industry** were purchased on the news about the plunge of Silver Market prices Thursday. Silver is used to manufacture photo films.

Such Blue Chips as **Sony**, **Victor** and **TDK Electronics** were purchased on expectations that their earnings in overseas markets *will keep* rising with the help of the dollar's strength.

Hong Kong

Firmer in light volume. With settlement not due till next Tuesday because of a local holiday, investors were buying optimistically in the growing belief there will be no change in Prime Lending rate here today.

Swire Properties, up 47½ cents to HK$4.65 on its improved results, including the revaluation of investment properties, also helped the market.

Australia

A late rally helped some stocks but failed to halt another day of slipping prices.

Rumours of another diamond find helped **Ashton Mining** rise 10 cents to A$2.39, while most other Diamond and speculative stocks weakened.

Brokers said there were few indications of the widely-predicted influx of post-Budget investment from the UK.

Another drop in *World Gold* and Base Metal prices signalled one of the quietest Mining openings of the year before bargain hunters stepped in to mark-up prices.

BHP lost *30 cents to A$11.50*, despite rumours it was about to announce a favourable second-half dividend with a possible bonus element.

Santos shed 16 cents to A$6.14 as investors began to show some caution towards the company's oil strike in the Cooper Basin.

Johannesburg

Gold shares generally easier, although select counters firmed on the higher bullion price.

Vaal Reefs where 31 miners were killed Thursday, little affecting output, fell another R1.25 to R57 in line with the lower trend.

Despite annual reports from some **Anglos Mines**, they too followed the general trend.

Platinums and Coppers eased, while Industrials were mixed in active trading.

Indices

NEW YORK—DOW JONES

	Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	Mar. 21	Mar. 20	1980 High	1980 Low	Since Cmpil'n High	Since Cmpil'n Low
◆Industr'ls	758.98	762.12	767.85	766.44	785.15	789.08	903.84 (13/2)	758.98 (27/3)	1051.70 (11/73)	41.22 (2/7/32)
H'me B'nds	64.17	64.28	64.25	64.52	64.82	65.16	74.01 (9/1)	64.06 (6/3)	—	—
Transport	233.68	241.04	240.94	242.50	250.10	250.93	305.80 (8/2)	233.69 (27/3)	305.80 (8/2/80)	12.23 (8/7/32)
Utilities	96.04	97.36	97.56	98.27	100.82	101.79	115.46 (15/2)	96.04 (27/3)	165.32 (20/4/69)	10.52 (28/4/42)
TradingVol 000's†	63,660	37,370	45,790	39,280	32,220	32,580	—	—	—	—

◆Day's high 767.41 low 729.95

Ind. div. yield %	Mar. 21	Mar. 14	Mar. 7	Year ago (approx)
	6.50	6.41	6.00	5.75

STANDARD AND POORS

	Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	Mar. 21	Mar. 20	1980 High	1980 Low	Since Cmpil't'n High	Since Cmpil't'n Low
‡Indust'ls	111.03	111.40	112.17	112.27	115.84	116.78	134.47 (13/2)	111.09 (27/3)	134.64 (11/1/73)	3.52 (30/6/32)
§Composite	98.22	98.68	93.19	99.25	102.51	103.12	118.44 (13/2)	98.22 (27/3)	125.85 (11/1/73)	4.40 (1/6/32)

	Mar. 26	Mar. 19	Mar. 12	Year ago (approx)
Ind. div. yield %	5.97	5.59	5.37	4.99
Ind. P/E Ratio	6.94	7.36	7.56	8.66
Long Gov. Bond Yield	12.59	11.93	12.29	8.98

N.Y.S.E. ALL COMMON

Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	1980 High	1980 Low
55.30	55.98	56.24	56.47	67.77 (13/2)	55.30 (27/3)

Rises and Falls	Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25
Issues Traded	1,899	1,875	1,896
Rises	132	730	399
Falls	1,601	778	1,151
Unchanged	166	367	346
New Highs	2	1	1
New Lows	701	244	415

MONTREAL

	Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	1980 High	1980 Low
Industrial	323.21	338.79	348.23	350.02	423.80 (29/2)	323.21 (27/3)
Combined	296.90	311.26	316.57	320.06	378.80 (29/2)	296.90 (27/3)
TORONTO Composite	1702.5	1786.2	1818.8	1830.3	2182.6 (29/2)	1702.5 (27/3)

	Mar. 28	Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25	1980 High	1980 Low
AUSTRALIA Sydney All Ord. (1956/59)	766.40	773.48	774.02	777.60	947.47 (14/2)	760.08 (2/1)
Metals & Minls (1956/59)	4661.26	4639.72	4620.44	4752.50	6660.55 (14/2)	4621.26 (26/3)
AUSTRIA Credit Aktien (2/1/62)	67.92	67.92	66.15	66.27	69.40 (7/1)	67.92 (27/3)
BELGIUM Belgian SE (31/12/63)	90.36	91.74	92.42	92.52	105.75 (11/2)	90.56 (28/3)
DENMARK Copenhagen SE (1/1/73)	76.66	76.66	76.80	77.20	98.74 (2/1)	74.78 (5/3)
FRANCE CAC General (29/12/61)	101.70	102.5	105.9	103.6	117.60 (22/6)	97.1 (3/1)
Ind Tendance (28/12/79)	97.30	97.4	99.2	98.4	109.70 (15/2)	95.60 (3/1)
GERMANY FAZ-Aktien (31/12/58)	212.75	213.91	215.24	214.57	238.88 (25/2)	212.73 (28/3)
Commerzbank (Dec. 1953)	667.00	671.0	675.1	673.0	749.2 (25/2)	657.0 (27/3)
HOLLAND ANP-CBS General (1970)	74.00	74.4	75.2	74.3	87.0 (11/2)	74.0 (27/3)
ANP-CBS Indust. (1970)	58.20	58.3	58.7	58.7	66.2 (11/1)	58.2 (28/3)
HONG KONG Hang Seng Bank (31/7/64)	783.22	766.25	762.96	758.15	963.17 (15/2)	758.92 (19/3)
ITALY Banca Comm. Ital (1972)	91.79	92.00	91.59	92.65	95.51 (26/2)	85.17 (2/1)
JAPAN Dow Average (16/5/49)	6475.35	6481.02	6535.83	6531.28	6856.95 (14/2)	6475.35 (27/3)
Tokyo New SE (4/1/68)	449.11	450.21	454.17	455.67	472.65 (14/2)	449.01 (10/3)
NORWAY Oslo SE (1/1/72)	110.12	112.72	115.3	116.51	144.70 (14/2)	110.12 (26/3)
SINGAPORE Straits Times (1966)	450.26	449.48	451.75	446.34	504.11 (6/3)	429.75 (3/1)
SOUTH AFRICA Gold (1958)	—	529.7	533.5	540.0	604.3 (6/3)	505.0 (4/1)
Industrial (1958)	—	498.1	494.8	491.3	517.2 (14/2)	456.0 (29/1)
SPAIN Madrid SE (28/12/79)	98.77	98.50	98.70	99.74	103.29 (21/2)	99.31 (15/1)
SWEDEN Jacobson & P. (1/1/58)	366.25	367.95	368.03	368.22	386.96 (8/2)	354.72 (17/1)
SWITZERLAND Swiss Bank Cp. (31/12/58)	276.00	276.5	281.4	280.9	317.9 (11/2)	276.0 (28/3)
WORLD Capital Intl. (1/1/70)	—	12.05	122.1	122.3	142.3 (13/2)	120.5 (29/3)

Base values of all indices are 100 except NYSE All Common—50; Standard and Poors—10; and Toronto—1,000: the last named based on 1975. † Excluding bonds. ‡ 400 Industrials. § 400 Industrials plus 40 Utilities, 40 Financials and 20 Transports. c Closed. u Unavailable.

NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS

Thursday	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day		Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
First Chicago	1,053,300	11½	−1	Gulf Oil	675,400	39	+3¼
Mobil	1,056,100	65½	+6½	Occidental Pet	618,200	20⅞	−1¾
IBM	853,100	55	+2	Louisiana Land	565,000	33¼	−2⅝
Boeing	812,500	54¾	−3¼	Reliance Group	496,300	62½	−¾
Texaco	756,200	33¼	−1¾	Bally Mfg	477,300	20⅝	−1⅞

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Ahold sees maintained earnings for 1980

By Michael Van Os in Amsterdam

AHOLD, the Dutch supermarket chain, expects profits to be broadly maintained at Fl 51m ($24.3m) in 1980, Mr. Albert Heyn, Board chairman, said at a Press conference yesterday. He expects decreasing margins to be offset by higher sales revenues.

The company added that the forecast for consumer spending in the Netherlands was "far from bright." Competition on the home market was increasing.

Ahold sees a more attractive development of business in the U.S., where it is expanding its Bi-Lo supermarket chain, and in Spain. *The company revealed* it was moving into sherry production. It was also expanding its general retailing activities in Spain.

About 55 new stores would be opened this year, of which 40 would be outside the Netherlands. Of this year's investments totalling Fl 105m, around Fl 35m would be employed abroad.

● Maintained profits and dividend for 1979 but a sharp drop in orders on hand were reported yesterday by Dutch construction group, Ballast-Nedam.

On sales up from Fl 1.68bn to Fl 2.2bn, net profits have emerged broadly all square at Fl 24.3m compared to Fl 24.1m. Dividend is being held at Fl 5.40 *a share.*

At the end of the year, however, orders on hand had dipped sharply to Fl 2.7bn from the Fl 4.49bn level shown at the close of 1978.

Ballast's spending on fixed assets during the year was limited to Fl 28m in contrast to the Fl 109.8m invested a year earlier.

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Rights issue gives public 12½% of Societe Generale

BY DAVID WHITE IN PARIS

SOCIETE GENERALE, one of France's largest banks, is to make its rights issue immediately after the Easter holiday. The issue, which will lead to a public shareholding of 12.5 per cent in the state-owned bank, follows a 23 per cent fall in net profits for 1979.

Confirming its plans for the issue, the first of its kind from one of the top French banks since they were nationalised after World War Two, Societe Generale said that 503,884 new shares would be offered at *FFr 200* (twice their nominal value) on a one-for-20 basis. The government's subscription rights will be offered for sale to the public under conditions to be announced later. This week the board announced a two-for-25 scrip issue.

The government's intention to partly denationalise Societe Generale is aimed both at reinforcing the bank's capital, which will rise to FFr 1.06bn ($240m), via the rights issue, and at spreading shareholdings. The bank's shares have been *quoted on the Paris* Bourse since distribution to staff began about seven years ago.

The FFr 200 issue price for the new shares compares with a recent Bourse value of around FFr 240. Subscirptions are to be open from April 8 to May 8.

Details of Societe Generale's Bourse plan coincide with announcement of a further FFr 84.65m capital increase by incorporating reserves, with two free shares being distributed for 25 already held. The bank said that subscribers to the rights issue would qualify for the proposed free shares.

The bank also announced a *sharp fall in profits for 1979* with net earnings dipping to FFr 511m ($116m) from FFr 663m.

● Caisse National de Credit Agricole plans to issue a FFr 2bn bond on the Paris bourse next week. It will have a 14.6 per cent coupon and yield 14.55 per cent gross at issue.

Steady growth by Ericsson

BY VICTOR KAYFETZ IN STOCKHOLM

SWEDISH telecommunications *group L. M. Ericsson*, reports a pre-tax profit of SKr 786m ($177m) for 1979, up from SKr 698m, and the board recommends a dividend of SKr 7 a share for a total payment of SKr 153m, comapared with SKr 5.50 and Sgr 120m for 1978.

The *1978 figures* are adjusted make them comparable to 1979 following Ericsson do Brasil's change from subsidiary to associated company status.

Group sales rose by 15 per cent to SKr 9.33bn ($2.11bn), with 81 per cent on markets *outside Sweden. Orders booked* for 1979 were lower than the SKr 10.58bn taken in 1978 when inflow was exceptionally high.

After apropriations of SKr 403m, up from SKr 175m mainly due to increases in the amount set aside for investment reserves, and after taxes and dividends to minority shareholders in subsidiaries, group net profit was Sgr 198m, down from Skr 300m in 1978.

Ericsson sates that *1980* results are hard to predict because of cost and exchange rates uncertainties. However, it is reasonable to expect that pre-tax earnings "will continue to develop in a positive way."

● Billerud, the Swedish pulp paper, board and chemicals *group, has moved back into* the black with a pre-tax profit of SKr 101m ($23m) for 1979 against a loss of SKr 150m.

The board proposes to resume the dividend, passed over for 1978, at the SKr 4 per share paid for 1977. Adjusted earnings per share in 1979 were SKr 9.30, compared with a 1978 loss of SKr 16.30.

Sales rose 49 per cent to SKr 2.93bn ($661m). But the 1978 accounts included the former Uddeholm units during August to December only. If sales and earnings of these units are counted for 1978 as a whole, turnover growth in 1979 of the *Billerud* group was limited to 17 per cent.

Billerud states that "it is possible to improve earnings further if no unforeseen events *take place. Price increases have* been decided upon for 1980 and the order situation is currently strong."

IFI stages first half recovery

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

ISTITUTO Finanziario Industriale, the holding company of the *Agnelli family* of Italy, has reported a sharp turnround in the first half of the current fiscal year. The company recovered from a loss for the corresponding period of L1.6bn to a profit this time of L444m ($500,000).

The company warned, however, that *the second half of* the year is much the more important, because the bulk of dividends are paid then by the companies in which *IFI* has holdings.

Interest charges in the period rose from L1.2bn to L2bn, *equalling 12.6 per cent of IFI's* average indebtedness of L32bn.

● In a separate development, Italy's leading medium-term credit institute *Mediobanca* turned in a gross profit for the six months to December 31 of L28.35bn ($31.9m), a rise of 15.1 per cent over the comparable period.

Mediobanca said yesterday that it had sold 35.4m shares in the chemical company Montedison during the period, to leave its stake at 153.7m shares or 7.81 per cent. The bank also sold L21 thousand-worth of *Montedison 13.5 per cent bonds* due 1991 during the half-year.

Paribas increases profit and dividend

By Our Paris Staff

COMPAGNIE Financière de Paris et des Pays-Bas, holding company of the Paribas banking and industrial empire, reports an increase in net profit to FFr 219.5m ($49.9m) for 1979 from FFr 192.4m. Its total net dividend is going up to FFr 15 a share from FFr 13.30.

Net earnings for the group reached FFr 1.5bn, including the specialised credit body Compagnie Bancaire, in which Paribas is *the leading share*holder with 45 per cent. Calculated on the same basis as previous years, group net profit rose to FFr 698m from FFr 572m.

Of this, the Compagnie Financier's consolidated share rose to FFr 570m from FFr 465m, an increase of more than 22 per cent. *Consolidated* earnings per share rose by 17 per cent to FFr 39.18, taking the increased *capital into account.*

The group results do not include long-term capital gains, which rose to a net figure of FFr 24m from FFr 16m the previous year.

The main banking subsidiary, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, showed a 10.8 per cent improvement in net profits to FFr 93.5m from FFr 84.4m.

SEV results to show improvement

By Terry Dodsworth in Paris

SEV, the electric components arm *of Ferodo*, the French vehicle equipment group, says that its net consolidated profits for 1979 should be slightly higher than the FFr 42m ($9.5m) achieved in the previous year.

In a year in which French vehicle sales continued to grow strongly, however, SEV's turnover rose by 15 per cent from FFr 2.39bn to FFr 2.75bn, while cash flow, at FFr 180m, went up by 15 per cent.

Parent company profits amounted to FFr 23m, and the directors are proposing an increase in the dividend although the amount has not yet been announced.

Firestone and Goodyear's credit ratings lowered

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

THE PROBLEMS of the tyre industry in the U.S., rapidly assuming crisis proportions, will mean a sharp increase in borrowing costs this year for at least two of the industry's leading companies. Standard *and Poor's, the credit rating* agency, has lowered its ratings on the debt of both Goodyear Tire and Rubber, the largest manufacturer in the world, and Firestone Tire and Rubber.

Goodyear's senior long-term debt rating and its publicly-rated industrial development bonds have been cut from A Minus to Triple B, with Standard and Poor's saying the lower ratings reflect the company's continued weakness in profitability and relatively high debt levels. The agency added that the tyre industry suffers *from overcapacity, reduced* demand and highly competitive pricing.

Earlier, S and P had lowered its rating of Firestone's senior long-term debt, also from A Minus to Triple B. Firestone's publicly rated industrial building revenue bonds and payroll development authority bonds were re-rated at Double B, down from Triple B Minus.

The substantial reduction in capacity in the industry, including Firestone's recently announced plants closings, should allow for a gradual re*building of stability, the agency* said. In view of this, allied to Firestone's reduced capital spending and costs and reasonable short-term flexibility, S and P said that it was maintaining the Single A2 commercial paper ratings of both Firestone and its subsidiary Firestone Credit.

Court ruling on Liquigas units

BY RUPERT CORNWELL IN ROME

CONFUSION over the future of the troubled Italian chemicals group Liquigas has been heightened this week by the decision of a Milan court to declare five key companies within the concern bankrupt.

The court ruling comes almost exactly two years after a group of creditors first filed for *bankruptcy of the group,* built up by Sig. Raffaele Ursini in the years of Italy's chemicals boom in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and today employing 15,000 people.

It also coincides with laborious negotiations in Rome, sponsored by the Government *and embracing creditor banks,* for the establishment of a bank consortium to push through a reconstruction programme for the Liquigas empire, along the lines of that mooted for Societa Italiana Resine (SIR).

However, the discussions have become increasingly bogged down as creditors have shown themselves unwilling to venture any fresh capital to salvage the concern. Its underlying debts have recently been estimated at L700bn ($795m).

The court decision, which most notably affects the holding company Liquigas and the main *operating company* in Italy, Liquichimica Italiana, has been interpreted as a move to revive these stalled negotiations.

Bid advisers dispute UIC value

BY GEORGIE LEE IN SINGAPORE

THE Development Bank of Singapore, representing United Industrial Overseas Holding (UIOH) which is making a takeover bid for United Industrial Corporation (UIC); valuing it at S$70.9m (U.S.$31.8m) has issued a rejoinder to Morgan Grenfell Asia's advice to UIC shareholders.

Morgan Grenfell, in advising *UIC shareholders not to accept* UIOH's offer of S$4 a share, has valued the UIC shares at between S$5.88 and S$7.15 a share. The lower figure reflects the value after allowing for a potential 40 per cent tax liability on UIC Building, should it be sold by UIC's subsidiary, UIC Development, while the higher value makes no allowance for potential tax liability.

In a rival bid, Hang Lung Developments is offering S$4.50 a UIC share.

DBS challenges Morgan Grenfell's arguments on a number of points, but the main area of disagreement appears to hinge on the valuation of UIC Building, 66 per cent of which is owned by UIC Development.

Morgan Grenfell cited the valuation done by the UIC-appointed independent valuer, Jones Lang Wootton, which puts the portion of UIC building owned by UIC Development at S$83.59m, on the basis of the open market value between willing vendor and willing *purchaser as at February 25* this year.

DBS said that its own independent valuer, Collier Goh and Tan, using an investment approach basis, has valued UIC Development's interest in UIC Building at S$68.38m, or S$48.68m after taking into consideration tax liabilities.

On this ground, DBS places UIC's net tangible assets per share at S$3.33, after taking into consideration the net tangible assets at July 31, 1979, the surplus over book value of its interest in UIC Building, and six months' post-tax profit attributable to UIC shareholders.

Meanwhile, Hang Lung *Developments, through* its merchant bankers, Jardine Fleming Singapore, has issued its official notice of take-over, at S$4.50 a share cash.

I.G. Index Limited 01-351 3466. Oct.-Dec. Rubber 72.65-73.3
29 Lamont Road, London SW10 0HS.
1. Tax-free trading on commodity futures.
2. The commodity futures market for the small investor.

COMMODITIES/REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Silver fears trigger general decline

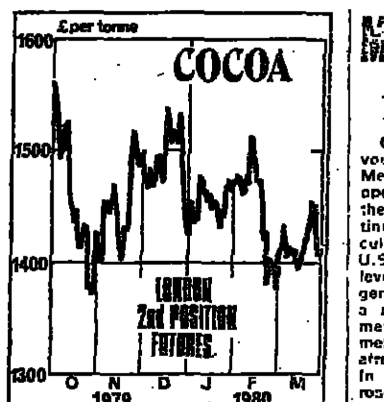
BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

THE SHARP decline in the gold price this week triggered a general fall in other metals and also affected sentiment among sugar dealers. There was also considerable nervousness about dealers' difficulties in meeting margin calls especially in the silver market.

The most dramatic decline was in silver which ended the week 315.6p lower at 644.7p a troy ounce. This collapse has already forced one New York firm to go into *liquidation.*

On the London Metal Exchange copper prices rose on Monday despite a rise in *warehouse stocks* last week but then fell sharply. Apart from the gold decline the market was reported to be affected by the general economic uncertainty. *Cash copper* wirebars rose £9.5 a tonne yesterday but still ended £67.5 down on the week at £949 a tonne.

Lead suffered an even sharper fall of £80 to £442.5 a tonne for cash metal, while cash zinc ended £20 lower at *£309 a tonne. Cash* standard tin closed at £7,647.5 a tonne last night, down £187.5 on the week.



Soft (non-metal) commodities were also affected by the "bearish" sentiment. The sharpest decline was in Sugar with the May position on the London futures market ending £10.4 down at £220 a tonne despite a substantial rise early *in the week.*

The early advance had been encouraged by a trade forecast that world sugar production would fall short of consumption by 5.4m tonnes in the 1979/80 season. *This deficit figure is* considerably higher than previous forecasts. Later sugar values were lifted somewhat by news that the U.S. Senate had passed a Bill to approve implementation of the International Sugar Agreement. The Bill still has to be passed in the House of Representatives, however.

At this week's EEC sugar export tender there were no successful bids for export refunds. *Dealers said this was* because the Commission set a subsidy level too low to attract exporter.

The cocoa market was dominated this week by the prospects for renegotiation or extension of the International Cocoa Agreement which is due to *expire on Monday. Last night* the pact's future continued to hang in the balance as producer and consumer delegates held private meetings in an attempt to thrash out a compromise. There are growing doubts, however, as to whether the producers really want an agreement.

Following a summit meeting in the Ivory Coast the producers called for the release of the pact's $210m buffer stock fund so that they could make their own price support arrangements. The consumers have since improved their offer on the floor price *under the agree*ment to 110 cents a lb from 100 cents but the producers said this was still not good enough. They have been calling for a 120 cents floor price.

Australian wool auctions resumed this week following the 10-week interruption caused by the wool-handlers' *strike.* As had been forecast prices were lower than before the stoppage reflecting the substantial transfer of stocks from the Australian Wool Corporation to wool users. The Bradford wooltops price fell 8p to 300p a tonne.

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

	Latest prices per tonne unless stated	Ch'nge on week	Year ago	1980 High	1980 Low
METALS					
Aluminium	£810/815	—	£710	£810/815	£760/70
Free Markets c.i.f.	$1,950/1,950	—	$1,600/20	$2180/2280	$1750/1808
[illegible]					

MARKET REPORTS

BASE METALS

COPPER—Marginally firmer in nervous and erratic trading on the London Metal Exchange. Forward metal opened at £940 and dipped to £937 on the early pre-market reflecting continuing concern over the financial difficulties being experienced by several U.S. brokerage houses. However, the level attracted good trade support and general short covering which prompted a rally to £965. In the afternoon the market traded erratically with forward metal touching £945 before recovering afresh to close the late kerb at £957.5. In the later inter-office trade the price rose further to £970. Turnover 25,575 tonnes.

COPPER	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Wirebars				
Cash	948-9	+12.5	952-4	+17
3 months	960.5	—1	945-50	—5.5
Settlem't	949	—12	—	......
Cathodes				
Cash	910-2	—7.5	934-7	—9
3 months	936.9	—7	922-5	—8
Settlem't	912	—7	—	......
U.S. Prod	—		*94-102	......

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning cash wirebars traded at £950, 49, three months £958, 63, 62, 61, 62, 64, 65, 64, 63, 62. Cathodes three months £946, 39. Kerbs: Wirebars three months £952, 61, 62, 61, 60, 56, 57. Afternoon: Wirebars three months £959, 60, 56, 57, 56, 55, 52, 51, 50, 49. Kerbs: Wirebars three months £950, 49, 48, 52, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 57, 56.

TIN—Firmer in quiet and routine trading with forward metal trading between £7,695 and £7,750 prior to closing the late kerb at the latter. Turnover 630 tonnes.

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
High Grade	£	£	£	£
Cash	7660-90	—10	7660-65	—47.5
3 months	7710-20	—50	7700-15	—20
Settlem't	7690	—10	—	......
Standard				
Cash	7680-90	—10	7640-55	—37.5
3 months	7710-20	—50	7691-3	—15.5
Settlem't	7590	—15	—	......
Straits E.	$2205	......		......
NewYork	—			......

Morning: Standard cash £7700, 7690, 80, three months £7750, 40, 30, 40, 30. Kerbs: Standard cash £7675, three months £7720, 7700, 10. Afternoon: Standard three months £7690, 90, 95. Kerbs: Standard three months £7695, 7750, 60, 50.

LEAD—Lower reflecting forecasts of a rise in stocks and the recent settlement of the strike at Britannia Lead. Forward metal opened around £435 and fell back to £415.5 during the afternoon, with the backwardation narrowing to around £20, before recovering to close the late kerb at £425.5. Turnover 175 75 tonnes.

LEAD	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	452-4	—2.5	442.5	—15.5
3 months	452.4	—8.25	419.20	—15 5
S'ment	454	—2	—	......
U.S. Spot	—		50	......

Morning: cash £456, 54, 53, 55, three months £438, 37, 36, 35, 34, 32, 32, 33, 34, 33.5. Kerbs: three months £431, 30. Afternoon: cash £441, 43, three months £430, 29, 25, 24, 22, 21, 20, 17, 19, 20. Kerbs: three months £420, 22, 23, 25, 26.

ZINC—Easier in quiet trading with forward metal falling to £310 before recovering to £312 on the late kerb. Turnover 4,725 tonnes.

ZINC	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Cash	307-8	—1.5	308-10	+2
3 months	314.5	—3.75	314.5	+.5
S'ment	308	—2	—	......
Primw'ts	—	.....	*30.5	......

Morning: three months £315.5, 16, 15, 14. Kerbs: three months £313, 11, 09, 10. Afternoon: three months £309, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14. Kerbs: three months £312, 14, 12, 12.

ALUMINIUM—Marginally easier with the only feature of the day's trading being the extremely tight nearby supply situation despite forecasts of a sizeable rise in warehouse stocks. Forward metal traded in a £10 range before closing the late kerb at £832. Turnover 5,850 tonnes.

Alumin'm	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
	£	£	£	£
Spot	920 5	—11.5	920-30	—5
3 months	859-41	—4.5	832.4	—4.5

COFFEE	Yesterday's Close	+ or —	Business Done
	£ per tonne		
March	1613-15	—20.5	1620-15
May	1642-43	—25.5	1655-41
July	1661-64	—26.5	1776-58
Sept.	1791-92	—21.0	1705-91
Nov.	1678-90	—24.5	1700-78
January	1660-82	—24.0	—
March	1630-50	—17.5	—

Sales: 2,656 (4,535) lots of 5 tonnes. (168 25). Unwashed Arabicas 203.00 (same). Comp. daily ICA 1968 186.83 (187.42).

GRAINS

WHEAT			BARLEY	
M'nth	Yest'rdays close	+ or —	Yest'rday close	+ or —
May	94.80	—0.65	93.80	—0.88
Sept	93.30	—0.15	91.30	—0.15
Nov.	97.25	—0.20	95.45	—0.15
Jan.	101.20	—0.26	99.65	+0.85

Business done—Wheat: May 95.75-94.85, Sept. 93.60-93.30, Nov. 97.60-97.25, Jan. 101.45-101.15. Sales 122 lots of 100 tonnes. Barley: May 94.60-93.80, Sept. 91.45-91.30, Nov. 95.55-95.45, Jan. 99.60-99.55. Sales 120 lots of 100 tonnes.

IMPORTED — Wheat: U.S. Dark Northern Spring No. 2 14 per cent *April and May 95.25, June and July* 95.50, Aug. 96.40, Sept. 97.25, Oct. 99 transhipment East Coast. English feed fob April 99, May 100 East Coast. Maize: U.S./French March 116, April 117, transhipment East Coast. South *African Yellow April/May* 78.50. Barley: English Feed fob May 100.50, June 101 East Coast. Rest unquoted.

HGCA — Locational ex-farm spot prices. Other milling wheat: Eastern 95.60. E. Midlands 94 80. Feed barley: *E. Midland 93.70, N. East 93.10, Scotland* 91.20.

RUBBER

The London physical market opened easier with *little physical interest* throughout the day, closing on a dull note. Lewis and Peat reported a Malaysian godown price of 315 (320) cents a kg (buyer, April).

Sales: 611 (847) at 15 tonnes, 49 (41)

AMERICAN MARKETS

NEW YORK, March 27.

FORCED MARGIN liquidations in precious metals kept the markets limit down. Rumours of enormous margin calls causing problems for some major *commission houses took their toll* by throwing the remaining Comex commodities into heavy losses. Grains and soyabeans sold off sharply and some commodities reached new contract *lows* on the lack of news of any government buying. The livestock complex was mostly limit down on the threat of potential hog liquidation in the weeks ahead, reported Heinold.

Cocoa—May 134.90 (138.00). July 133.15 (136.40). Sept. 134.50. Dec. *2985. March 3045. May ——, July ——,* Sept. ——. Sales: 1,420.

Coffee—"C" Contract: May 187.00-188.00 (188.34), July 192.30-193.00 (194.28), Sept. 197.75-198.50, Dec. 191.00-191.25, March 183.00-183.50, *May 183.70-184.00, July 185.00. Sales:* 4,770.

Copper—April 84.20 (87.90). May 85.50-85.80 (89.50). July 88.50-88.80, Sept. 91.20, Dec. 93.50, Jan. 94.80, March 96.80, May 98.80, July 100.70, *Sept. 102.60, Dec. 105.20, Jan. 106.20.* Sales: 8,500.

Closing prices were not available for this edition.

Cotton—No. 2: May 85.62 (87.62). July 83.61 (85.61), Oct. 79.52, Dec. 75.21-75.30, March 75.70, *May 76.76, July 77.25, Oct. ——. Sales: 18,550.*

*Gold—April 462.0-464.0 (504.0), May 487.5 (512.5), June 496.0, Aug. 513.4, Oct. 530.8, Dec. 548.2, Feb. 565.6, April 583.0, June 600.4, Aug. 617.8, Oct. 635.2, Dec. 652.6. Sales: 31,000.

Orange Juice—May 94.10 (94.15). July 94.70 (95.10), Sept. 96.35-96.50, Nov. 97.50-98.00, Jan. 98.30-98.45, March 98.90-99.10, May 99.60, July 100.10-100.60. Sales: 650.

15,000. Hundy and Harman bullion spot 1110.50 (1605.00).

Sugar—No. 11: May 19.50-19.60 (21.36), July 20.42 (21.42), Sept. 21.38, Oct. 21.83, Jan. 22.85, March 23.89, *May 23.98, July 24.15.* Sales: 13,888.

Tin—790.00-800.00 asked (803.08-815.00).

CHICAGO, March 27.

Lard—Chicago loose 19.62 (19.63). New York prime steam unavailable.

Live Cattle—April 63.72 (65.22), June 65.65 (67.15), Aug. 65.30, Oct. 64.35, Dec. 65.75, Jan. 66.10, Feb. 66.32.

Live Hogs—April 31.17 (32.67), June 35.10 (36.60), July 37.00, Aug. 36.95, Oct 37.60, Dec. 40.10, Feb. 42.40, April 41.90-41.85, June 44.50.

‡‡Maize—May 258-258¼ (264), July 271-271½ (276¾), Sept. 283½-283, Dec. 292-292½, March 305-305½, May 315.

Pork Bellies—May 37.25 (39.25), July 38.67 (40.67), Aug. 37.72, Feb. 50.60, March 50.90, May 51.60, July ——, Aug. ——.

Silver—April 1070.0-1060.0 (1565.0), June 1895.0 (2015.0), Aug. 1955.0, Oct. 2015.0, Dec. 2070.0, Feb. 2130.0, April 2195.0, June 2250.0, Aug. 2310.0, Oct. 2370.0, Dec. 2430.0, Feb. 2490.0, April ——. June 2610.0, Aug. 2670.0.

†Soyabeans—May 596-597½ (607½), July 622-623 (632½), Aug. 632½, Sept. 639½, Nov. 656-659½, Jan. 675, March 695, May 707½.

‖Soyabean Meal—May 163.8-164.0 (166.7), *July* 170.5-170.4 (173.4), Aug. 173.5-173.7, Sept. 176.2-176.0, Oct. 179.3-179.1, Dec. 184.5-184.2, Jan. 186.5, March 192.0, May 195.0, July 197.5-198.5.

Soyabean Oil — May 21.50-21.54 *(21.91), July* 22.04-22.02 (22.50), Aug. 22.35, Sept 22.50-22.55, Oct. 22.75, Dec. 23.25-23.29, Jan. 23.40, March 23.65, May 24.00-24.05, July 24.45-24.50, March ——.

†Wheat—May 410-409 (413¾), July *420-418½ (423½), Sept. 431½-431, Dec.* 452, March 467, May 472-475.

WINNIPEG March 27. §Barley—March 111.00 (112.20), May 113.70 (114.70), July 115.80, Oct. 113.30, Dec.

Stock Exchange dealings

Thursday, March 27	19,525
Wednesday, March 26	17,678
Tuesday, March 25	21,194
Monday, March 24	19,238
Friday, March 21	21,317
Thursday, March 20	20,919

The list below gives the prices at which bargains were done by members of the Stock Exchange and recorded in last Thursday's Stock Exchange Daily Official List. For those securities not marked in Thursday's List, we show the latest markings recorded during the previous four business days; these are distinguished by the dates shown in parentheses.

The number of dealings marked on Thursday in each section follows the name of the section. Unless otherwise denoted, shares are £1 fully paid and *stock £100 fully paid.*

Members are not obliged to mark bargains, except in special cases, and the list cannot, therefore, be regarded as a complete record of prices at which business has been done. Bargains are recorded in the Official List up to *2.15 pm only, but later transactions can be included in the following day's* Official List. The figures shown above, on the other hand, are the total number of bargains transacted in all securities up to 3.30 pm. No indication is available as to whether a bargain represents a sale or purchase. Markings are not necessarily in order of execution, and only one bargain in any one security at any one price is recorded.

‡ Bargains at Special Prices. Δ Bargains done with or between non-members. ◈ Bargains done previous day. § Bargains done with members of a recognised Stock Exchange. ♣ Bargains done for delayed delivery or "no buying-in." $A—$Australian; $B—$Bahamian; $C—$Canadian; $HK—$Hong Kong; $J—$Jamaican; $Ma—$Malayan; $Mx—$Mexican; $NZ—$New Zealand; $S—$Singapore; $US—$United States; $WI—$West Indian.

BRITISH FUNDS (803)

7¾pc Treasury Ln. 2012-15 58¾◈
8pc Treasury Ln. 2002-06 61¼◈ ¼
8¼pc Treasury Ln. 1987-90 72½◈ 3½ 2¼ ½
8½pc Treasury Ln. 1980-82 89½◈ 9¼ ⅞ 90¼
8¾pc Treasury Ln. 1984-86 81¼◈ 2¼◈ 3¼◈ 2 ½ ¼ 1⅞ ½
8¾pc Treasury Ln. 1997 67½◈ 7 ⅜
9pc Treasury Ln. 1994 72⅞◈ ⅜ ¼
9pc Treasury Ln. 1992-96 69½◈ ⅛ 9
9½pc Treasury Ln. 1999 72½◈
12pc Treasury Ln. 1983 92¼◈ 5/16 1/16 7/16

9pc Treasury Stk. Cnv. Stk. (24/3)
Variable Rate Treasury (15.9678pc) 67¼ (24/3)
Variable Rate Treasury (16.3789pc) 95⅛ (26/3)
Variable Rate Treasury (16.0597pc) 92⅞ (26/3)
3½pc War Loan 29¹¹/₁₆◈ ⅞◈
British Gas 3pc Stk. 1990-95 ⅞ 3⅞
Irish Free State 4½pc Land & ... North of Scot. Hydro-Electric ... 1977-80 94½◈ 5

PUBLIC BOARDS (10)

FREE OF STAMP DUTY

Agricultural Mort. 5pcDb. 1959-89 57¼ (21/3). 5pcDb. 1979-83 75 (26/3). 5½pcDb. 1969-73 70 (25/3). 6¾pcDb. 58¼ (26/3). 7¼pcDb. 1981-84 76¼ (24/3). 7¼pcDb. 1991-93 58¼ (25/3). 9¼pcDb. 1980-85 78
Finance for Industry 13pcLn. 1981 96½ (21/3). 14pcLn. 1983 94
Met. Wtr. Board 3pcB 25¼◈. 5½pc 94½ (26/3). New River 3pcDb. 23 (21/3)
Port London Authority 3pcA 19½ (24/3). 6½pcReg. 33 4 (21/3)

COMMONWEALTH GOVTS. (8)

REGISTERED AND INSCRIBED STOCKS

Australia 5½pcReg. 83¼ (21/3). 6pcReg. 1977-80 94¹¹/₁₆ (26/3). 6pc 1981-83 77 (25/3). 7pcReg. 88½ (26/3)
New Zealand 5¼pc Stk. 81 (25/3). 7¼pc Stk. 60½ (21/3). 7½pc Stk. 74¼ (25/3)
Nyasaland 6pc Stk. 92½ (24/3)
Southern Rhodesia 2½pcStk. 145◈ 2. 3pc Stk. 132◈. 3½pcStk. 67-69 152◈. 3½pc Stk. 80-85 77. 4pcStk. 136. 4½pcStk. 77-82 113 (24/3). 6pcStk. 156

FOREIGN STOCKS (1)

COUPONS PAYABLE IN LONDON

Chinese 5pc Gold Bds. 1925 21½ (26/3). Do. (Issued in France) 18 (21/3)
Japan 6pcStlg.Ln. 56◈

BANKS (116)

Alexanders Discount Co. 190 (24/3)
Allen Harvey and Ross 287 (25/3)
Allied Irish Banks (25p) 114◈
Ansbacher (Henry) Holdings (5p) 13¼ (24/3)
Arbuthnot Latham 9pcLn. 116 15 13
Australia and New Zealand Banking Grp. ($A1) 213 (25/3)
Bank of Ireland 320◈. 7pcLn. 53½ (26/3)
Bank of Montreal (C$2) p9?0 (21/3)
Bank of N. S. Wales (London Reg.) ($A1) 140 (26/3)
Bank of Scotland (Gov. and Co. of) 247
Barclays Bank 415◈ 6◈ 17 13 5 8 15 10. 8¼pcLn. 60¼◈ 59¾ ½
Can. Imperial Bank of Com. (C$2) p855 (26/3)
Clive Discount Holdings (20p) 48◈
Gerrard and National Discount Co. (25p) 199 (25/3)
Gibbs (Antony) Holdings (25p) 80◈
Gillett Bros. Discount Co. 167 (21/3)
Grindlays Holdings (25p) 123 (25/3)
Guinness Peat Group (25p) 104◈ 4 5
Hambros (25p) 313
Hill, Samuel Group (25p) 87
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. (HK$2.50) 188 90
Jessel, Toynbee and Co. (25p) 56 (26/3)
Keyser Ullmann Holdings (25p) 56
King and Shaxson (20p) 64 60 (25/3)
Kleinwort, Benson, Lonsdale (25p) 139 (25/3)
Lloyds Bank 292◈ 4◈ 7 303 291 305 293 90 90: 8. 7½pcLn. 84½ 5½ (24/3)
Manufacturers Hanover Corp. $US57.50 12.20 (26/3)
Mercury Securities (25p) 164 5 5 (25/3)
Midland Bank 307◈ 15 18 12 21 20. 7½pcLn. 68½ (25/3)
Minster Assets (25p) 50½ 49½ 50 10 8 14 17. 7pcPf. 48½ 9½ (26/3). 9pcLn. 88
Royal Bank of Canada ($C2) 15¾ (25/3)
Royal Bank of Scotland (25p) 82 3
Schroders 470 (25/3)
Standard Chartered 480◈ 80 5. 10½pcLn. 98 7
Union Discount 378 (25/3)

BREWERIES (86)

Allied (25p) 74◈ 4 2½ 2 3¼ 1½. New (25p) 74 (26/3). 5½pcPf. 38◈. 7½pc Pf. 53 (21/3). 4¼pcDb. 1979-84 68◈. 5¼pcDb. 68◈. 6¼pcDb. 1984-89 58½. Db. 1987-92 54¼ (24/3). 7¼pcDb. 58¼ (21/3). 6½pcLn. 40½ ¼ (25/3). 7¼pcLn. 54 (26/3)
Amalgamated Distilled Products (10p) 43 40
Bass (25p) 220◈ 18 14 17. 3¼pcDb. 39½◈. 8¼pcDb. 59½◈. 7¼pcLn. 55¼ (24/3)
Belhaven (25p) 25¼ (26/3)
Bell (Arthur) (50p) 167 4
Boddingtons (25p) 115
Border Breweries (Wrexham) (25p) 89 (24/3)
Brown (Matthew) (25p) 144 (26/3)
Bulmer (H. P.) (25p) 148. 9½pcPf. 88½ (21/3)
Burtonwood (25p) 246 5 (21/3)
Cardiff Property (20p) 66 (25/3)
City of London Brewery 20pcPfd. 132 (24/3). Dfd. (25p) 61. 6pc2ndPf. 38 (24/3)
Courage 3½pcDb. 24 (24/3). 5¼pcDb. 85¼. 7pcDb. 59 (26/3). 10¼pcLn. 73½ 1 (24/3)
Davenports' Brewery (25p) 136 (25/3)
Distillers (50p) 198 7 201. 7¼pcLn. 54 (25/3). 10.5pcLn. 71◈
Greenall Whitley (25p) 183 2. 5pcPf. 78 (21/3)
Greene King Sons (25p) 164 (24/3). New (25p) 168 (26/3)
Guinness (Arthur) (25p) 85 4
Hardys Hansons (25p) 255
Highland Distilleries (20p) 125
Invergordon Distilleries (Hldgs.) (25p) 220 (24/3)
Irish Distillers Grp. (25p) 78½◈ 9?◈

COMMERCIAL (1,408)

A—B

C—D

E—F

G—H

Highams (25p) 43 (25/3)
Highland Electronics Gp. (20p) 50 (24/3)
Hill & Smith (25p) 44◈
Hill rds (10p) 157
Hinton (Amos) (10p) 70 (21/3)
Hirst and Mallinson (20p) 23¹/₁₆ 5 (25/3)
Hoechst Aktiengesellschaft Certs. of Deposit to Br. issued by S. G. Warburg (DM50) 277 (24/3)
Hoffnung (S.) (25p) 80 (26/3). 12pcCw 85 (25/3)
Holden (Arthur) (25p) 80 82 (24/3)
Hollas Gp. (5p) 73
Holt Lloyd (10p) 223
Home Charm (10p) 142 40 (25/3)
Homfray (25p) 13½◈ 15
Hoover A Ord. (25p) 141
Hopkinsons Hldgs. (50p) 50 (26/3)
Horizon Travel (5p) 253 (25/3)
House of Fraser (25p) 136 3 4. 8pcUns. 44 (21/3). 8¼pcUns. 57 (25/3)
House of Lerose (25p) 56 (26/3)
Hoveringham Gp. (25p) 65 (25/3)
Howard and Wyndham (20p) 8. A Ord. (20p) 6½ 7. 9pcCnv.Cum.Red.Pf. (20p) 9. 18pcUns. 70
Howard Machinery (25p) 22
Howard Shuttering (10p) 24½◈ 40
Howard Tenens (25p) 73◈ 2
Howden Gp. (25p) 65 (25/3)
Humphries Hldgs. (25p) 27 (25/3)
Hunt and Moscrop (5p) 11½ (26/3). Dfd. (5p) 4½ (26/3)
Hurst (Charles) (25p) 65 (26/3)
Hurst (Charles) Motors 67¼ (21/3)
Hyman (I. and J.) (5p) 21◈

I—J—K

ICL (25p) 120 1 19 18. 5½pcDeb. 69½
IDC Gp. (20p) 174½◈ 40
JMI (25p) 54◈ 3½. 5½pcUns. 39 (24/3). 7¼pcUns. 58 (26/3). 8pcUns. 63¼ (21/3)
IU International Corp. Shs. (U.S.$1.20) p555 (24/3)
Ibstock Johnsen (25p) 66◈
Illingworth Morris (20p) 17 (24/3). A (NV) (20p) 11½◈ 11
Imasco Com. Shs. of N.P.V. 16¾ (25/3)
Imperial Chemical Industries 369◈ 6 71 68 6 74 70 2 64. 5½pcUns. 39½ 40½. 7¼pcUns. 60 59¾ ¾. 8pcUns. 60½ 60
Imperial Cold Storage (R0.25) 125 (24/3). *5½pcCum.Pf.* (R2) 35 (24/3)
Imperial Gp. (25p) 76½◈ 81½◈ 75¾ 5 4½. 4pcUns. 93¼ (26/3). 10½pcUns. 70⅝ (26/3). 8pcCnv.Uns. 80
Inco Com. Shs. of N.P.V. 10¾ (26/3)
Ingall Industries (10p) 25 (25/3)
Initial Services (25p) 126
Inter-City Inv. Grp. (20p) 15 (25/3)
Intnl. Business Machines Corpn. (US$1.25) 25½◈ 4⅞ 3¾
Intnl. Paint (25p) 69 (24/3)
Intnl. Stores 4¾pcLn. 31½ (24/3)
Intnl. Tele. and Telegraph Corp. (US$1) 10¼ (26/3)
Intn. Thomson Organisation 382◈ 75◈ 5: Do. *Cnv.Red.Pf. 380* (25/3)
Invaresk Grp. (50p) 34 (26/3). 7½pcLn. 58 (21/3)

Assoc. Communications Cpn. A (25p) 103
Assoc. Dairies 7¼pcDeb. 60¼ (26/3)
Assoc. Dairies Grp. (25p) 179 8 80 77 4
Assoc. Electrical Inds. 6pcDeb. 76
Assoc. Eng. (25p) 65½ (26/3). 6¼pcDeb. 76¼ (25/3)
Assoc. Fisheries (25p) 63
Assoc. Leisure (5p) 91 90½
Assoc. Newspaper Grp. (25p) 255 (26/3). 6¼pcUnsec.Ln. 48¼ (25/3)
Assoc. Paper Inds. (25p) 37 (25/3)
Assoc. Sprayers (10p) 63◈
Astra Indstl. Grp. (10p) 12 (26/3)
Atkins Bros. (Hosiery) (25p) 39 (24/3)
Audiotronic Hldgs. (10p) 5 7 (26/3). 12pc Pfd. (10p) 6 (24/3)

Cooper Inds. (10p) 13½
Cope Allman Intl (5p) 60½◈ 2◈ 1 ½
Cope Sportswear (5p) 24 2¼
Corah (25p) 27 (26/3)
Coral Leisure Grp. (10p) 74◈ 3 2
Cosalt (25p) 41 (25/3)
Costain Group (25p) 140◈ 40. Dfd. (25p) 96 (26/3)
Country Gentleman's Assoc. 9½◈
Courtaulds (25p) 71◈ 67½◈ 8 9½ 7 9. 7pcDb. 65½◈ ½. 5½pcLn. 40 (24/3). 6½pcLn 45½ (26/3). 7¼pcLn. 49½ (24/3). 7¾pcLn. 51½ (25/3)
Courts (Furnishers) A (25p) 77◈ ¼◈
Cowie (T.) (5p) 44 (26/3)
Crest Nicholson (10p) 88 (26/3)

L—M

N—O—P

Q—R—S

T—U—V

Tilling Thomas (20p) 132◈ 3◈ 1½◈ 2 29. 5.25pcPf. 5 (25/3). 8½pcUns.Ln. 62¾ (24/3)
Time Products (10p) 59½◈
Tomkins (F.H.) (5p) 16½ (25/3)
Tootal (25p) 26½◈ ¾. 5pcPf. 29½ (25/3). 7¼pcUns.Ln. 54
Towles (10p) 115 (21/3). A (10p) 72
Toye (25p) 66◈
Tozer, Kemsley Millbourn Hldgs.) (20p) 69 (26/3)
Trafalgar House (20p) 63½◈ .4 2½ 2. 9½pcUns.Ln. 62¼ ½ (21/3)
Transport Development (25p) 67½
Tranwood (5p) 4 (25/3)
Tricoville (10p) 57 (25/3)
Trident Television A (Non-Vtg.) (10p) 47 5½

W—Y—Z

FINANCIAL TRUSTS (31)

GAS (14)

INSURANCE (85)

Refuge Ass. (5p) 152 (25/3)
Royal Insurance (25p) 373◈ 18◈ 72 10 15 11
Stenhouse Hldgs. (25p) 76½◈
Sun Alliance and London Insurance 544◈ 38 5 4. 6½pc Ln. 68½
Sun Life Ass. Society (5p) 152◈ 48
Willis Faber (25p) 245

INVESTMENT TRUSTS (118)

Aberdeen Trust (25p) 90 1
Ailsa Investment (25p) 134 (21/3)
Alliance Invest. (25p) 118 (21/3)
Alliance Trust (25p) 185◈ 2◈ 4◈ 3 5 4
Ambrose Invest. Capital (25p) 67
American Trust (25p) 42¼
Anglo American Secs. (25p) 88½◈. 4pc Db. 65 3½ 4½ (25/3)
Anglo-Scottish Invest. (25p) 42 (24/3)

ACTIVE STOCKS

YESTERDAY—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1980 high	1980 low
Turner & Newall	£1	13	98	− 1	142	98
BAT Inds.	25p	11	226		271	226
BP	25p	11	346	+10	412	328
Courtaulds	25p	10	66	− 2	79	66
Beecham	25p	9	114	− 1	134	113
Burmah Oil	£1	9	190	− 1	249	162
Coats Patons	25p	9	40½	− 1½	50	40½
Royal Dutch	Fl20	9	£32½	+ ⅛	£39¼	£32
Shell Transport	25p	9	332	+ 6	410	314
Thorn EMI	25p	9	290	− 6	328	266
Barclays Bank	£1	8	406		452	398
RTZ	25p	8	342	− 5	485	327
Tate & Lyle	£1	8	126	− 2	178	126
ICI	£1	7	362	− 2	402	353
Rank Org.	25p	7	194	− 2	228	176

ON THE WEEK—

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on week	1979-80 high	1979-80 low
BP	25p	81	346	− 8	412	328
Turner & Newall	£1	52	98	− 1	142	98
Shell Transport	25p	50	332	−22	410	314
BAT Inds.	25p	44	226	− 4	271	226
Courtaulds	25p	39	66	− 3	79	66
ICI	£1	39	362	− 6	402	353
Unilever	25p	39	405	−13	480	405
Allied Breweries	25p	38	70	+ 1	84	68
GEC	25p	38	363		388	326
Beecham	25p	37	114	− 4	134	113
Barclays Bank	£1	36	406	−12	452	398
Tricentrol	25p	35	274	− 8	334	250
Burmah Oil	£1	34	190	− 4	249	162
Imperial Group	25p	34	78½	+ 3½	84	71½

APPOINTMENTS

Group executive at Charterhouse

Mr. Edward Cox has been appointed chairman of ALENCO, the engineering components subsidiary of the Charterhouse Group. Mr. Cox is also chairman of the group's development capital company, Charterhouse Development and a director of the Charterhouse Group.

★

Mr. M. C. Thomas has resigned as chairman and chief executive of the WALL PAPER MANUFACTURERS. He will remain a director of REED INTERNATIONAL until this year's annual meeting on July 30, but will not seek re-election. Mr. G. S. G. Witherington, deputy chairman of Reed, who in July 1979, took over responsibility for the building and home improvement *products area, of which WPM is* part, has become chairman of WPM in addition to his existing responsibilities as deputy chairman of Reed and chief executive of the building and home improvement products area. Mr. M. Glenn, at present a director of WPM and responsible for its North American operations has been appointed managing director of WPM.

★

SMITH AND NEPHEW ASSOCIATED COMPANIES states that in accordance with the requirements of paragraph 5(d) of the Listing Agreement, Mr. *Kenneth R. Kemp, the group* chairman and former finance director, has for the time being undertaken the responsibilities of the group finance director following the resignation of the previous incumbent.

★

Mr. Desmond Curtis has been appointed managing director of WORLD PETROLEUM JUBILEE CONGRESS, a company formed to organise and administer arrangements for the 11th World Petroleum Congress to be held in the UK in the Autumn of 1983. Mr. Curtis retires from the Mobil Oil Company next month.

★

Mr. Axel Hirchberg has been appointed deputy managing director (marketing) for CHASE MANHATTAN LIMITED (CML), the London-based merchant banking subsidiary of the Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A. *Previously* an executive director at CML, Mr. Hirschberg is responsible for *the company's client relations* and loan syndications teams for Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Mr. Dryden Liddle, formerly an associate director, has become an executive director with responsibility for loan *syndications in the* Mediterranean area.

★

Mr. Lionel Robinson has relinquished his position as managing director of Benham and Sons, Conveyer Cafeterias, and James Stott and Co. (Engineers) and will be leaving the THORN EMI group on March 31 to pursue private interests.

★

BRITISH RAIL PROPERTY *BOARD has appointed* two new directors. Mr. Douglas Barber, chief estate survey (development) *becomes director* (development) and Mr. John L. Sampson, chief estate surveyor (sales), will be director (sales). The changes, effective from March 31, follow the retirement of Mr. Robert Daswood as managing director and the appointment of Mr. Gavin Simpson, director (development and sales), as his successor.

★

Sir Eugene Melville, director *general of the BRITISH* PROPERTY FEDERATION since 1974, will retire on March 31. Mr. Cecil Gough, at present assistant director general, will be the acting director general until the appointment of a successor. Sir Eugene will remain with the Federation as a consultant.

★

Mr. H. Jack Smith has been installed as president of the INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF VALUERS AND AUCTIONEERS. He is senior partner of Ryder and Dutton of Oldham.

★

Mr. Martin Kinna is to become Conference Director of the BARBICAN CENTRE FOR ARTS AND CONFERENCES, in the City of London, from April 14. He will succeed Mr. David Michol, Conference Director since 1977, who is leaving to set up an international marketing consultancy based overseas. Mr. Kinna joins the Barbican Centre from ICL, where he was group exhibitions manager.

★

Mr. Maurice Graveney has been *appointed divisional managing* director of WARNER GEAR INTERNATIONAL, Biggleswade, *a division of Borg Warner.*

BASE LENDING RATES

A.B.N. Bank	17 %	■ Guinness Mahon	17 %
Allied Irish Bank	17 %	■ Hambros Bank	17 %
Amro Bank	17 %	■ Hill Samuel	§17 %
American Express Bk.	17 %	C. Hoare & Co.	†17 %
Henry Ansbacher	17 %	Hongkong & Shanghai	17 %
A P Bank Ltd.	17 %	*Industrial* Bk. of Scot.	17½%
■ Arbuthnot Latham	17 %	Keyser Ullmann	17 %
Associates Cap. Corp.	17 %	Knowsley & Co. Ltd.	18½%
Banco de Bilbao	17 %	*Langris Trust Ltd.*	17 %
Bank of Credit & Cmce.	17 %	Lloyds Bank	17 %
Bank of Cyprus	17 %	Edward Manson & Co.	18 %
Bank of N.S.W.	17 %	Midland Bank	17 %
Banque Belge Ltd.	17 %	■ Samuel Montagu	17 %
Banque du Rhone et de *la Tamise S.A.*	17½%	■ Morgan Grenfell	17 %
Barclays Bank	17 %	National Westminster	17 %
Bremar Holdings Ltd.	18 %	Norwich General Trust	17 %
Brit. Bank of Mid. East	17 %	P. S. Refson & Co.	17 %
■ Brown Shipley	17 %	Rossminster	17 %
Canada Perm't Trust	18 %	Ryl. Bk. Canada (Ldn.)	17 %
Cayzer Ltd.	17 %	Schlesinger Limited	17 %
Cedar Holdings	17 %	E. S. Schwab	17 %
■ Charterhouse Japhet	17 %	*Security Trust Co. Ltd.*	18 %
Choulartons	17 %	Standard Chartered	17 %
C. E. Coates	17 %	Trade Dev. Bank	17 %
Consolidated Credits	17 %	Trustee Savings Bank	17 %
Co-operative Bank	*17 %	Twentieth Century Bk.	17 %
Corinthian Secs.	17 %	United Bank of Kuwait	17 %
The Cyprus Popular Bk.	17 %	Whiteaway Laidlaw	17½%
Duncan Lawrie	17 %	Williams & Glyn's	17 %
Eagil Trust	17 %	Wintrust Secs. Ltd.	17 %
E. T. Trust Limited	17 %	Yorkshire Bank	17 %
First Nat. Fin. Corp.	18½%		
First Nat. Secs. Ltd.	18 %		
Robert Fraser	18 %		
■ Antony Gibbs	17 %		
Greyhound Guaranty	17 %		
Grindlays Bank	‡17 %		

■ Members of the Accepting Houses Committee.
* 7-day deposits 15%, 1-month *deposits* 15¼%.
† 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 15%, up to £25,000 15¼% and over £25,000 15½%.
‡ Call deposits over £1,000 15%.
§ Demand deposits 15%.

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UNIT TRUSTS (4)

MINES

Australian (15)

Miscellaneous (40)

Rhodesian (1)

South African (63)

West African (—)

Diamond (6)

OIL (236)

PROPERTY (52)

RUBBER (18)

UK RAILWAYS (3)

FOREIGN RAILWAYS

SHIPPING (21)

TEA (9)

CANALS (2)

Bristol Channel Ship Repairers (10p) 4¼ (25/3)
Manchester Ship Canal 193 (24/3). 5pcPf. 36 (26/3)
Mersey Docks Harbour Combined Units (each comprising 92p nom. Ln. and Ord. 10p) 170. 3¼pcDb. 74-8¾ 83½0

WATERWORKS (—)

East Surrey Wtr. 7½pcDb. 55¾ 4¾ (24/3)
Folkestone District Wtr. 2.8pcPf. 23 (21/3)
Lee Valley Wtr. 4.2pcPf. 68 (24/3)
Mid Kent Wtr. 9pcPf. (£10 pd) 7¼ (24/3)

RULE 163 (1) (e)

Bargains marked in securities which are quoted on listed on an Overseas Stock Exchange

MARCH 27

MARCH 26

MARCH 25

MARCH 24

RULE 163 (2) (a)

Applications granted for specific bargains in securities not listed on any Stock Exchange.

MARCH 27

MARCH 26

MARCH 25

MARCH 24

MARCH 21

MARCH 28

Aran Energy 380‡ 75: 45 2 40 34
Berkeley Exploration and Production New 95 4 3 2 90
Candecca Resources 87 5 4 3
CCP North Sea Associates 245 3 2 1
Cluff Oil 317
Cluff Oil (New) 325
Siebens Oil and Gas (UK) 507 2 1 500 495 2 90 85 80 75
Viking Oil £10.45 35 30 20 15 10 10.00

(By permission of the Stock Exchange Council)

RULE 163 (3)

Bargains marked for approved companies engaged solely in mineral exploration.

MARCH 27

Aran Energy 358 4 3
Berkeley Exploration and Production New 117 15 12 10 9 8 5

LOCAL AUTHORITY BOND TABLE

Authority (telephone number in parentheses)	Annual gross interest	Interest payable	Minimum sum	Life of bond
	%		£	Year
Knowsley (051 548 6555)	15⅝	½-year	1,000	1
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	14⅞	½-year	200	2-3
Redbridge (01-478 3020)	14¼	½-year	200	5-6

BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Deposit rate %	Share accounts %	Sub'pn shares %	*Term shares %
Abbey National	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Aid to Thrift	10.85	11.37	—	—
Alliance	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Anglia Hastings and Thanet	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Bradford and Bingley	10.25	10.50	11.75	11.25 one month's notice deposit
Bridgwater	10.25	10.50	12.00	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.60 2½ yrs.
Bristol and West	10.25	10.50	11.75	—
Bristol Economic	10.25	10.50	11.75	10.75 3 months
Britannia	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., †11.25 3 months' notice
Burnley	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Cardiff	10.50	11.50	12.50	—
Catholic	10.05	10.75	11.65	— 10.95 over £5,000
Chelsea	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.55 6 mths.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	11.50	—	— Premium shares including 1.00 bonus p.a. (£15,000 only)
Citizens Regency	10.25	10.85	12.05	12.85 5 yrs., 12.35 4 yrs., 11.85 3 yrs.
City of London (The)	10.50	10.80	11.80	11.85 3-yr. withdwbl. increment share
Coventry Economic	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs., 11.25 3 mt nt
Coventry Provident	10.25	10.50	12.50	12.00 4 yrs., 11.75 3 yrs., 11.25 2 yrs.
Derbyshire	10.25	10.50	11.75	11.10 3 months' notice
Ealing and Acton	10.25	11.00	—	11.65 2 years, £2,000 minimum
Gateway	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Greenwich	—	10.75	12.00	12.75 5 yrs., 12.25 4 yrs., 11.75 3 yrs.
Guardian	10.25	10.75	—	11.75 3 months, £1,000 minimum
Halifax	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Heart of England	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 years, 11.00 3 months' notice
Hearts of Oak and Enfield...	10.25	10.75	12.25	12.00 4 yrs., 11.75 3 yrs., 11.50 2 yrs.
Hendon	10.50	11.00	—	12.00 6 months, minimum £2,000
Huddersfield and Bradford...	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Lambeth	10.25	10.75	12.00	12.50 5 yrs., withdrawals aft. 18 mths.
Leamington Spa	10.35	10.60	14.19	12.55 5 yrs., 12.30 4 yrs., 11.90 3 yrs.
Leeds Permanent	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Leicester	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Liverpool	10.25	10.50	11.95	12.50 5 years, minimum £1,000
London Goldhawk	10.25	10.75	12.00	11.75 3 yrs., 11.50 2 yrs., 11.25 1 yr.
Melton Mowbray	10.35	10.60	11.75	12.10 4 yrs., 11.35 2 yrs.
Mornington	10.75	11.25	—	—
National Counties	10.50	10.80	11.80	11.90 6 mth., 11.35 3 mth., min. £1,000
Nationwide	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
New Cross	11.00	11.25	—	—
Northern Rock	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Norwich	10.25	10.50	12.00	11.50 3 yrs., 11.25 2 yrs., min. £500
Paddington	10.00	11.00	12.50	11.75 6 months, 11.50 3 months
Peckham Mutual	10.50	11.25	—	—
Portman	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 11.55 6 months' notice
Principality	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Property Owners	10.25	11.00	12.25	11.55 3 months
Provincial	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Skipton	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Sussex County	10.50	10.75	12.55	12.55 5 yrs., 12.15 4 yrs., 11.85 3 yrs.
Sussex Mutual	10.50	10.85	12.50	11.25-13.10 all with special options
Town and Country	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.
Walthamstow	10.25	10.60	11.70	12.60 5 yrs., 11.6 6 mth. not. min. £500
Wessex	10.50	11.20	—	12.20 6 mths. not. WDL min. 3 yrs.
Woolwich	10.25	10.50	11.75	12.50 5 yrs., 12.00 4 yrs., 11.50 3 yrs.

*Rates normally variable in line with changes in ordinary share rates.

† Applicable from April 1, 1980.

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

UK MONEY MARKET

Bank of England Minimum Lending rate 17 per cent (since November 15, 1979)

The Treasury bill rate rose by 0.0767 per cent at yesterday's tender to a record 16.2838 per cent, and the minimum accepted bid fell to £95.93½ against £95.95 the previous week. Bids at that level were met as to about 47 per cent and above in full. The £300m bills on offer attracted bids of £510.925m and all bills offered were allotted. Next week a further £300m will be on offer, replacing a similar amount of maturities.

The payment of petrol revenue tax was seen as the principal factor causing yesterday's shortage in the London money market, with the repayment of Thursday's large loans and a small increase in the note circulation more than outweighing bank balances brought over from Thursday a moderate way above target. Consequently the Bank of England bought a small amount of Treasury bills and a small number of corporation bills, all direct from the discount houses, and a large amount of eligible bank bills, with all the latter for resale at a fixed future date.

Discount houses were paying around 16¾ per cent for secured call loans at the start, with closing balances taken as low as 14 per cent. In the interbank market, weekend loans opened at 17¾-17½ per cent and rose to 17¾-18 per cent before coming back to 15-15½ per cent during the afternoon. Closing balances were taken around 16 per cent.

EXCHANGES AND BULLION

Trading was fairly thin in the foreign exchange market yesterday, partly reflecting nervousness over further rises in U.S. interest rates. Towards the close of dealings some U.S. banks announced rises in their prime rates to a record 19¼-19½ per cent, and this helped the dollar. Against the D-mark it rose to DM 1.9290 from DM 1.9220 on Thursday and FFr 4.4425 against FFr 4.43 in terms of the French franc. Against the Swiss franc however it fell back to SwFr 1.8250 from SwFr 1.8300, after the Swiss authorities announced their intention to support the Swiss franc in currency markets with heavy dollar sales if necessary. The Japanese yen was also slightly firmer, with the dollar easing to Y249.6 from Y249.9. On dollar's trade weighted index fell to 90.3 from 90.4.

Sterling was slightly firmer overall, and this was reflected in its trade weighted index which rose to 72.6 from 72.5, having stood at 72.6 at noon and 72.5 in the morning. Against the dollar it opened at $2.1740 and reached a high of $2.1855 before coming back to $2.1750 by lunch. However, dollar demand saw it fall even further during the afternoon to a low of $2.1645. But at these higher levels the dollar came on offer and the pound recovered to close at $2.1735-$2.1745.

Gold rose $12 an ounce in the bullion market to $482-488,

THE POUND SPOT AND FORWARD

March 28	Day's spread	Close	One month	% p.a.	Three months	% p.a.
U.S.	2.1645-2.1855	2.1735-2.1745	0.02-0.12c dis	−0.39	0.58-0.60dis	−1.01
Canada	2.5735-2.5890	2.5745-2.5755	0.75-0.65c pm	3.26	1.75-1.65 pm	2.64
Nethlnd.	4.56-4.59½	4.57¾-4.58¾	3-2c pm	6.55	8½-7½ pm	6.38
Belgium	66.95-67.40	67.20-67.30	10c pm-par	0.89	20.10 pm	0.89
Denmark	12.98-13.05	13.01¾-13.02¾	3½-5½ore dis	−4.03	10¾-12¾ dis	−3.53
Ireland	1.1115-1.1175	1.1135-1.1145	0.05p pm-par	0.27	0.14-0.08 pm	0.39
W. Ger.	4.17-4.21	4.19-4.20	4¼-3¾pf pm	10.37	9¾-8¾ pm	8.34
Portugal	110.20-111.10	110.50-110.70	par-35c dis	−1.90	5 pm-95 dis	−1.63
Spain	155.50-156.55	156.45-156.55	45-85c dis	−4.98	175-240 dis	−5.30
Italy	1,931-1,941	1,940-1,941	2½-1½ lire pm	0.93	2½-4¾ dis	−0.77
Norway	11.14-11.20½	11.18¾-11.19¾	4-2½ore pm	3.48	9¾-8¾ pm	3.22
France	9.62-9.68	9.65¾-9.66¾	5½-4½c pm	6.21	10¾-9¾ pm	4.84
Sweden	9.66-9.71	9.68¾-9.69¾	4½-3½ore pm	5.11	11-10¾ pm	4.39
Japan	540-548	542-543	1.50-1.20y pm	2.99	3.35-3.00 pm	2.34
Austria	29.90-30.05	29.97-30.02	25-15gro pm	8.00	61-51 pm	7.47
Switz.	3.95½-3.99	3.96½-3.97½	4½-3½c pm	12.09	11½-10½ pm	11.08

Belgian rate is for convertible francs. Financial franc 69.50-69.60. Six month forward dollar 0.93-1.03c dis. 12-month 0.60-0.70c dis.

GOLD

	Mar. 28		Mar. 27	
Gold Bullion (fine ounce)				
Close	$482-488	(£245-247½)	$470-475	(£216-219)
Opening	$480-490	(£247½-250)	$584-490	(£221½-224½)
Morning fixing...	$490	(£225.163)	$486	(£222.813)
Afternoon fixing	$490	(£225.847)	$485.25	(£222.847)
Gold Coins				
Krugerrand........	$494-500	(£227-231)	$480-485	(£220-224)
Mapleleaf........	$490-500	(£225-231)	$570-480	(£216-221)
New Sovereigns.	$123½-126½	(£57-60)	$120-123	(£55-57)
King Sovs........	$143-148	(£66-70)	$138-142	(£63-66)
Victoria Sovs........	£143-148	(£66-70)	$138-142	(£63-66)
French 20s........	$117-122		$120-123	
50 pesos Mexico	$600-610		$600-610	
100 Cor. Austria.	$480-488		$475-483	
$20 Eagles........	$590-600		$610-630	
$10 Eagles........	—		—	
$5 Eagles........	—		—	

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Mar. 27	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschem'k	Japan'se Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild'r	Italian Lira	Canada Dollar	Belgian Franc
Pound Sterling	1.	2.174	4.195	542.5	9.658	3.975	4.583	1941.	2.575	67.25
U.S. Dollar	0.460	1.	1.930	249.5	4.442	1.826	2.108	892.6	1.184	30.93
Deutschemark	0.238	0.51	1.	129.5	2.302	0.946	1.092	462.6	0.614	16.03
Japanese Yen 1,000	1.843	4.007	7.733	1000.	17.80	7.318	8.447	3577.	4.747	124.0
French Franc 10	1.035	2.251	4.344	561.7	10.	4.111	4.745	2009.	2.666	69.63
Swiss Franc	0.252	0.548	1.057	136.6	2.433	1.	1.154	488.6	0.649	16.94
Dutch Guilder	0.218	0.474	0.915	118.4	2.107	0.866	1.	423.5	0.562	14.68
Italian Lira, 1,000	0.515	1.120	2.162	279.6	4.977	2.046	2.362	1000.	1.327	34.66
Canadian Dollar	0.388	0.844	1.629	210.7	3.750	1.542	1.780	753.8	1.	26.12
Belgian Franc 100	1.487	3.233	6.238	806.7	14.36	5.903	6.814	2886.	3.829	100.

LONDON MONEY RATES

Mar. 28 1980	Sterling Certificate of deposit	Interbank	Local Authority deposits	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House Deposits	Company Deposits	Discount market deposits	Treasury Bills ♦	Eligible Bank Bills ♦	Fine Trade Bills ♦
Overnight	—	15-18	—	—	—	17½	14-17	—	—	—
2 days notice..	—	—	18¼-18⅛	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or........	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days notice..	—	17⅝-17⅞	18½-18⅝	—	18½	18	16¾-16⅞	—	—	—
One month........	18⅛-17 15/16	18-18⅛	18⅜-18⅝	19¼-18⅞	18½	18½-18⅝	15⅞	16 1/16	17⅞	18¼
Two months.....	18⅛-17 15/16	18⅛-18¼	—	19¼-18¾	18⅝	—	16⅝	16 1/16	17⅝-17 11/16	18⅛
Three months.	18⅛-17 15/16	18 1/16-18 3/16	18½-18⅝	18¾-18¼	18⅝	18⅜	16⅝	16¼-16 11/32	17⅛-17 3/16	17⅝
Six months.......	17¾-17⅝	17⅞-18	18⅛-18¼	18⅛-17⅝	18⅜	18¼	—	—	16 7/16	16⅞
Nine months....	17 7/16-17 1/16	17¼-17½	—	17⅞-17⅜	17¾	—	—	—	—	—
One Year........	17-16 15/16	17 1/16-17 3/16	17⅝-17⅞	17⅝-17⅛	17½	—	—	—	—	—
Two years........	—	—	17¼-17½	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

*Local authorities and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days fixed. *Long-term local authority mortgage rates nominally three years 16¼-16½ per cent; four years 16-16½ per cent; five years 15-15¾ per cent. ♦Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper. Buying rates for four-month bank bills 17⅝-17 9/16 per cent; four-month trade bills 17¾ per cent.*

Approximate selling rates for one-month Treasury bills 15 23/32 per cent; two-month 15 7/32 per cent; three-months 16 3/32 per cent. Aproximate selling rates for one-month bank bills 17¾ per cent; two-months 17½-17 9/16 per cent; three-months 17¼-17 9/16 per cent; one-month trade bills 18 per cent; two-months 17⅞ per cent; and three-months 17⅞ per cent.

Finance Houses Base Rates (published by the Finance Houses Association) 18 per cent from March 1, 1980. Clearing Bank Deposit Rates for sums at seven days' notice 15 per cent. Clearing Bank Rates for lending 17 per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rates of discount 16.2838 per cent.

CURRENCY MOVEMENTS

Mar. 28	Bank of England Index	Morgan Guaranty Changes %
Sterling........	72.5	−32.6
U.S. dollar........	90.3	−3.5
Canadian dollar	81.0	−17.8
Austrian schilling..	151.2	+23.0
Belgian franc........	113.5	+12.8
Danish kroner........	104.8	−5.3
Deutsche mark........	151.0	+42.3
Swiss franc........	187.8	+72.5
Guilder........	124.1	+19.1
French franc........	99.7	−6.3
Lira........	52.9	−50.4
Yen........	116.9	+15.8

Based on trade weighted changes from Washington agreement December, 1971 (Bank of England Index=100).

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates of deposit: one-month 18.30-18.40 per cent; three-months 19.10-19.20 per cent; six-months 18.90-19.00 per cent; one year 17.65-17.75 per cent.

Mar. 28	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	Swiss Franc	West German Mark	French Franc	Italian Lira	Asian $	Japanese Yen
†Short term........	17⅜-17⅝	18-18½	8½-9½	10¼-10½	42-46	8⅜-8½	12¾-13	11-13	6⅜-6⅝	14-14½
7 days' notice.	17¾-18	18¼-18½	8½-9½	10⅝-10⅝	2¾-3¼	8⅜-8½	12⅞-13⅛	14½-16	17⅝-17⅞	14½-15
Month........	18¼-18½	18 7/16-18 11/16	15¼-15⅝	10⅝-10⅞	5⅞-6	8⅞-9	13½-13¾	16¾-17½	18¼-18⅝	14¾-15
Three months.....	18⅝-18⅞	19 3/16-19 7/16	15-15⅝	11⅛-11⅝	7-7⅛	9 1/16-9 3/16	14⅛-14⅝	18¾-19¾	19¼-19⅝	15¾-16
Six months........	18⅝-18⅞	19 3/16-19 7/16	15¼-15⅝	11¾-12	7 7/16-7⅞	10 1/16-10 3/16	14⅜-14 11/16	19¼-20½	19⅛-19⅜	15-15¼
One year........	17¾-18	17⅝-17⅞	14⅞-15¼	12¼-12½	7¼-7⅝	10 1/16-10 3/16	14⅞-15⅛	20-21	17 11/16-17 15/16	13½-13¾

Long-term Eurodollar two years 15¾-16 per cent; three years 15¾-15⅞ per cent; four years 15¼-15½ per cent; five years 14⅞-15⅛ per cent; nominal closing rates. Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars, Canadian dollars and Japanese yen; others two days' notice. Asian rates are closing rates in Singapore.

EMS EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

	ECU central rates	Currency amounts against ECU March 28	% change from central rate	% change adjusted for divergence	Divergence limit %
Belgian Franc ...	39.7897	40.5775	+1.98	+0.95	±1.53
Danish Krone ...	7.72336	7.85879	+1.75	+0.72	±1.64
German D-Mark	2.48208	2.53249	+2.03	+1.00	±1.125
French Franc ...	5.84700	5.83515	−0.20	−1.23	±1.3667
Dutch Guilder ...	2.74362	2.76459	+0.76	−0.27	±1.512
Irish Punt	0.668201	0.672036	+0.57	−0.46	±1.668
Italian Lira	1157.79	1170.30	+1.08	+0.56	±4.08

Changes are for ECU, therefore positive change denotes a weak currency. Adjustment calculated by Financial Times.

OTHER CURRENCIES

Mar. 28	£	$		£ Note Rates
Argentina Peso ...	3778-3798	1740-1747	Austria........	29.90-30.20
Australia Dollar...	2.0050-2.0100	0.9225-0.9230	Belgium........	69.15-69.40
Brazil Cruzeiro....	101.00-102.00	46.60-46.80	Denmark........	12.92-13.00
Finland Markka...	8.42-8.43	3.8760-3.8780	France........	9.60-9.66
Greek Drachma...	89.555-91.569	40.85-41.05	Germany........	4.17-4.19½
Hong Kong Dollar	11.00-11.04	5.0720-5.0770	Italy........	1910-1965
Iran Rial........	n/a	n.a.	Japan........	544-549
Kuwait Dinar(KD)	0.597-0.607	0.2750-0.2761	Netherlands.....	4.54⅛-4.57
Luxembourg Frc.	67.20-67.30	30.93-30.95	Norway........	11.12-11.20
Malaysia Dollar...	4.9100-4.9350	2.2660-2.2680	Portugal........	107-111
New Zealand Dlr.	2.3030-2.3080	1.0590-1.0600	Spain........	151¼-158¼
Saudi Arab. Riyal.	7.21-7.31	3.3310-3.3340	Sweden........	9.66-9.72
Singapore Dollar.	4.8925-4.9100	2.2555-2.2575	Switzerland.....	3.97-3.99
Sth. African Rand	1.7600-1.7610	0.8095-0.8100	United States...	2.170-2.179
U.A.E. Dirham.....	8.10-8.20	3.7360-3.7390	Yugoslavia.......	50-52

Rate given for Argentina is free rate.

U.K. CONVERTIBLE STOCKS 28/3/80

Statistics provided by *dataSTREAM International*

Name and description	Size (£m)	Current price	Terms*	Conversion dates	Flat yield	Red. yield	Premium† Current	Premium† Range‡	Income Equ.§	Income Conv.¶	Income Diff.♡	Cheap(+) Dear(−)◊ Current
Bank of Ireland 10pc Cv. 91-96	1.20	154.00	47.6	77-81	6.7	4.3	−11.4	−15 to −8	0.0	14.2	8.2	+19.6
British Land 12pc Cv. 2002	7.71	237.00	333.3	80-97	5.0	3.3	5.3	− 4 to 6	0.0	87.0	38.7	+33.3
Hanson Trust 6½pc Cv. 88-93	3.38	76.00	57.1	76-81	8.6	9.7	− 5.0	− 7 to 2	6.1	3.1	− 3.8	+ 1.2
Slough Estates 10pc Cv. 87-90	5.50	217.00	187.5	78-86	4.7		− 1.1	− 6 to 1	38.7	43.5	2.2	+ 3.3
Slough Estates 8pc Cv. 91-94	24.88	106.00	78.0	80-91	7.7	7.5	16.2	15 to 26	27.1	50.2	25.4	+ 9.2
Ultramar 7pc net R.Cv. Pfd.	12.59	2.54	0.5	76-81	4.0		− 3.5	− 7 to 1	11.1	9.4	− 0.7	+ 2.8
Wilkinson Match 10pc Cv. 84-98	11.10	73.00	40.0	76-83	14.4	14.8	38.5	18 to 38	20.6	36.9	15.9	−22.5

* Number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. † The extra cost of investment in convertible expressed as per cent of the cost of the equity in the convertible stock. ‡ Three-month range. § Income on number of ordinary shares into which £100 nominal of convertible stock is convertible. This income, expressed in pence, is summed from present time until income on ordinary shares is greater than income on £100 nominal of convertible or the final conversion date whichever is earlier. Income is assumed to grow at 10 per cent per annum and is present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ¶ Income on £100 of convertible. Income is summed until conversion and present valued at 12 per cent per annum. ♡ This is income of the convertible less income of the underlying equity expressed as per cent of the value of the underlying equity. ◊ The difference between the premium and income difference expressed as per cent of the value of underlying equity. + is an indication of relative cheapness. − is an indication of relative dearness.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Uncertain economic outlook brings drab post-Budget close and equity index sustains two-day fall to 13.6

Account Dealing Dates
Options

*First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Mar. 10	Mar. 20	Mar. 21	Mar. 31
Mar. 24	Apr. 10	Apr. 11	Apr. 21
Apr. 14	Apr. 24	Apr. 25	May 6

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9 a.m. two business days earlier.

Post-Budget lethargy persisted in stock markets yesterday, and traders were glad to see the end of the first leg of a three-week Account during which the market had hoped that the Chancellor would restore some investment incentives and help manufacturing industry. Instead, Sir Geoffrey Howe reiterated yesterday his Budget predictions of continued difficult conditions for industry and a slow hard slog to economic recovery.

Because of the bleak short-term outlook, interest in most sectors was pitifully small with business confined to "bed and breakfast" deals or transactions connected with financial end-year considerations. Company trading statements aroused pockets of activity and a light interest also centred on situation stocks. Leading shares, however, moved lower in the early trade on lack of support rather than any renewed selling.

The afternoon session was particularly colourless, but the appearance of one or two professionals covering bear positions caused the leaders to harden. The FT 30-share index, after recording a loss of 3.0 at 11.00 am, recovered slowly to end a net 1.6 down for a two-day fall of 13.6 to 421.5, its lowest for nearly 11 weeks.

The Gilt-edged market still seemed to be unsure of the Government's monetary policies and quotations initially retreated in the face of fresh selling. Although this was affected within the first hour of business, the longs remained dull despite a good rally at the shorter end of the market. In the latter area, early falls to ¼ were regained on a bear-squeeze which later provoked some "cheap" buying. A specialist demand developed for **Treasury Variable 1983**, up ⅛ at 93¼, but the remaining two Variables improved only marginally. Sentiment was not influenced by the expected increases in U.S. Prime Rates, some to 19½ per cent.

Imperial attracted a useful Traded options business following reports that the Howard Johnson deal may be called off and contributed 202 deals to the total of 704. The week's daily average amounted to 591.

Alex. Howden dull

Still reflecting disappointment with the unchanged final dividend, **Alexander Howden** fell 7 for a two-day decline of 12 at 102p. Other Lloyds brokers, firm of late following the decision not to refer Marsh and McLellan's bid for C. T. Bowring to the Monopolies Commission, drifted lower in sympathy. **Willis Faber**, preliminary figures next Wednesday, lost 5 to 240p, while **C. E. Heath** fell 8 to 200p. Losses of 5 and 3 respectively were recorded in **Stewart Wrightson**, 182p, and **Minet**, 99p. Composites trended quietly dull with **Phoenix** closing 4 lower at 210p and **Sun Alliance** 6 down at 534p ahead of their respective annual figures due next Wednesday.

Apart from a fall of 5 to 55p in **F.C. Finance** following the sharp profits setback and unchanged dividend, interest in the banking sector was minimal.

The generally dull conditions in Buildings were attributed to investment apathy. Lack of support left **Blue Circle** 4 off at 286p and **London Brick** a fraction cheaper at 71p. **Mixconcrete**, at 72p, relinquished the previous day's gain of 3 that followed the higher annual earnings, but **Ibstock Johnsen** held at 65p despite the lower profits and dividend cut. **Brown and Jackson** came on offer and declined 7 to a 1980 low of 138p, while **Derek Crouch** gave up 4 to 108p and **Fairclough Construction** eased 2 to 61p. With the exception of **Phoenix**, which shed 7 to 128p, movements in Timbers were restricted to a penny or so in either direction. Elsewhere, **Milbury** put on 4 to 54p in a thin market on the appearance of a solitary buyer.

Turnover in **ICI** was negligible, but the price slipped a couple of pence to 362p, after 360p. **Fisons** were subjected to small offerings and finished 6 off at 254p. **Brent** also shed 6, to 218p, on late selling, while **Yorkshire Chemical** eased 2 to 54p on the lower annual profits.

Frasers lower

Small sellers predominated among leading Stores which closed with falls of 7. **House of Fraser** gave up that much to 127p after further reflection of Thursday's annual results; **Lonrho** eased 3 to 85p in sympathy. The chairman's denial of any bid clipped 3 from **Debenhams**, 80p. **Combined English**, preliminary results next Monday, fell 3 to 32p, while **Harris Queensway**, annual results two days later, shed a similar amount to 182p. Adverse Press comment continued to unsettle mail-orders and **Empire** lost 6 to 150p for a loss on the week of 16p. **Freemans** shaded to 120p, but **Grattan**, unchanged at 64p, reversed an earlier fall of 2. Fresh support was lacking for speculative counter **B and Q (Retail)**, 6 lower at 70p, but **Elys (Wimbledon)** firmed a couple of pence to 148p in response to increased full-year profits.

Still reflecting the proposed phased reduction in capital allowances for television rentals, **Thorn EMI** met fresh selling and eased afresh to 289p before settling 6 down for a two-day fall of 26 to 290p. Other leading Electricals held relatively steady, but second-line issues met occasional offerings. **Muirhead**, bought recently on bid hopes, fell 6 more to 195p. **Wholesale Fittings**, a good market of late, shed 5 to 595p, while similar falls were seen in **Automated Security**, 220p, and **MK Electric**, 153p.

Leading Engineers rarely strayed far from overnight closing levels, but selling was evident in secondary issues where **Lake and Elliot** featured with a fall of 12 to 28p on the half-yearly loss and passing of the interim dividend. **Raine Engineering** lost a penny to 9p following news of the company's proposal to close its Effingham steel works, while **Wolf Tools** closed 2 cheaper at 62p, after 66p, on the interim results. **Williams and James** met fresh selling and fell 5 more to 105p and falls of 4 were recorded in **Bamfords**, 20p, **Weir Group**, 31p, and **W. G. Allen**, 34p.

Bernard Matthews provided a bright spot in Foods, rising 20 to 295p in a thin market in response to the increased annual profits and proposed 100 per cent scrip issue. Other issues mirrored the general market trend with **J. Sainsbury** off 5 more at 288p and **Associated Dairies** 4 cheaper at 172p. **United Biscuits** held at 68p, but the new nil paid shares dipped 1¼ to ¾p premium. **Bluebird Confectionery** added a couple of pence to 60p, after 63p, in belated response to the half-yearly results.

Camrex sold

Nervous selling fuelled by rumours that an extraordinary meeting had been convened following a Boardroom resignation led to a fall of 7 to 32p in **Camrex**. Elsewhere in miscellaneous industrials, **Change Wares** were marked 2½ lower to 5p and the 12 per cent preference 1½ easier to 6¾p on the announcement that the preliminary results for 1979 have been postponed to mid-May and that current indications are that a trading loss in excess of £1m has been incurred. **Sharna Ware** fell 6 to 150p, after 148p, on the disappointing results, while **Johnson Matthey** gave up 10 to 250p in the wake of the collapse in the silver price.

A firm market of late on the good results, **W. Canning** encountered profit-taking and fell 5 to 50p, while **A. Arenson** dipped 4 to 49p and **Rotaprint** 3 to 27p. **Esperanza Trade and Transport** gave up 4 to 94p, as did **Marshalls Universal**, to 86p. Ahead of preliminary statements due on Monday, **Booker McConnell**, 227p, and **Rockware**, 89p, eased a penny apiece. The leaders drifted lower for want of support: **Unilever** lost 5 to 405p, **Reed International** 4 to 183p and **Pilkington** 3 to 205p.

Ladbroke put on 7 to 129p on the £4.3m sale of 5 casinos to **Reo Stakis**, 2 cheaper at 54p. Elsewhere in the Leisure sector, **Pleasurama** shed 9 to a 1980 low of 125p on the stiff new taxes on casino gaming contained in the Budget.

Dealings were resumed in **Godfrey Davis** following details of the £22m car rental deal with Eurocar, a subsidiary of Renault, and the shares, suspended on February 11 at 148p, returned at 173p before settling at 168p. Other Motor Distributors traded quietly, but **Appleyard** continued to be depressed by the recent annual statement and closed 4 off for a fall on the week of 12 at 54p. Among Components, **Dunlop** encountered further selling and gave up 2 to 55p, but **Lucas**, a dull market following Thursday's interim profits setback, recovered a couple of pence to 210p.

Oil shares better

Oils passed a rather quiet session yesterday, but staged a useful rally which continued into the after-hours' dealings. The final tone, however, was cautious awaiting a decided trend from Wall Street. Among the leaders, **BP** regained 10 to 346p and **Shell** 6 to 332p. **Tricentrol**, a few pence lower at 264p in the earlier dealings, rallied to finish 6 dearer on balance at 274p, while **Ultramar** ended 12 up at 510p. In the more speculative issues, **Cambridge** gave up 10 to 225p and **Gas and Oil Acreage** 15 to 350p. Dealings resumed in **Viking Oil** at £10⅞ compared with the suspension price of £10⅜ following the agreed bid from Sun Oil of the U.S.; the offer has been irrevocably accepted by holders of over 51 per cent of the equity. Elsewhere, **Norsk Hydro**, down 2 at £39½, and **Petrofina**, 3½ lower at £67, were unsettled by the North Sea Ekofisk disaster.

Trusts failed to benefit further from the exemption from payment of tax on capital gains made within their funds and trended easier with other equity sectors. **Jardine Japan**, however, hardened a penny to 86p on the plan to unitise its portfolio into an existing offshore Trust.

Textiles remained dull. **Lister** fell 6 to 53p following the interim loss, while falls of around 2 were recorded in **Courtaulds**, 66p, **Coats Patons**, 40½p, and **Shaw Carpets**, 25p. Profit-taking clipped 3 from **Monileigh**, 52p, while support was also lacking for **Sirdar**, 4 off at 92p.

Imperial rose 3½ to 78½p following reports of some doubts that the proposed acquisition of Howard Johnson will be completed following Sir John Pile's comments on the matter at last Thursday's annual general meeting.

South African industrials again turned downwards in reaction to the lower bullion price. **Barlow Rand** fell 25 to 365p, as did **Tiger Oats**, at 560p. **South African Breweries** eased 8 to 120p.

Guthrie again featured in Plantations, rising 42 to 912p, still buoyed by hopes of an impending offer from Sime Darby.

Golds down again

Confirmation of Thursday's rumours that a U.S. brokerage house is experiencing financial difficulties following the collapse in silver prices had a further depressing effect on mining markets.

The heavy American selling of Golds on Thursday evening carried through to yesterday morning when jobbers marked down share prices in the face of forced selling.

However, the large-scale selling soon dried up and the market rallied strongly as local, Johannesburg and Continental buying interest was reported. The rally continued until the late inter-office trading when the market began to weaken as a result of a further rise in U.S. interest rates.

This caused a minor setback in the bullion price, which, after touching $490 closed $12 firmer at $485 an ounce — down $44 on the week. The Gold Mines index registered an 8.6 fall at 279.1, a week's loss of 27.3.

Among the heavyweight, falls of a point and more were seen in **Randfontein**, £27¾, and **Free State Geduld**, £21¼, while **West Driefontein** closed ½ off at £27, after being as low as £25 during the early trading.

Vaal Reefs dipped ⅜ to £22½: the mine's No. 2 north shaft will be closed for at least four days following Thursday's lift cage accident in which 31 miners died.

London financials showed **Gold Fields** 9 easier at 458p, **Selection Trust** 19 down at 635p and **RTZ** 5 cheaper at 342p.

Australians generally lost ground in quiet trading. **Leichhardt** gave up 25 to 230p and **Samantha** 10 to 58p, after 54p. **Ashton Mining** moved against the trend, however, and put on 3 to 115p.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Option	Ex'rcise price	April Closing offer	April Vol.	July Closing offer	July Vol.	Oct. Closing offer	Oct. Vol.	Equity close
BP	325	23	3	—	—	—	—	343p
BP	330	—	—	48	1	64	11	"
BP	350	15	24	—	—	—	—	"
BP	360	—	—	28	—	38	2	"
BP	375	5	12	—	—	—	—	"
BP	390	—	—	17	12	28	—	"
BP	420	—	—	10	8	20	1	"
Com. Union	130	5	20	13	—	18	—	128p
Com. Union	140	2½	—	8	—	13	2	"
Cons. Gold	420	48	3	74	—	—	—	464p
Cons. Gold	460	18	50	46	50	70	—	"
Cons. Gold	500	6	15	28	3	50	—	"
Cons. Gold	550	2	2	18	5	30	—	"
Courtaulds	60	1	—	3½	—	4½	1	66p
Courtaulds	90	½	—	1½	5	—	—	"
GEC	330	36	2	56	—	68	—	362p
GEC	360	14	7	36	—	48	1	"
GEC	390	3½	11	21	—	34	—	"
Grand Met.	120	6½	—	14½	—	17½	1	121p
Grand Met.	130	2½	—	7½	3	13½	—	"
ICI	330	36	—	57	6	—	—	361p
ICI	360	15	60	36	—	48	—	"
ICI	390	3	12	17	50	28	—	"
ICI	420	1½	—	9	—	16	10	"
Land Secs.	280	15	10	25	—	37	—	286p
Marks & Sp.	90	3	—	7	—	11	1	88p
Marks & Sp.	110	¾	—	2	8	—	—	"
Shell	330	13	1	32	1	44	1	329p
Shell	360	5	—	20	15	29	8	"
Shell	390	3	1	12	10	22	15	"
Shell	430	1	—	7	2	12	—	"
Totals			232		178		54	
		May		August		November		
Imperial Gp.	80	4	202	7	—	8½	—	78p
Racal Elec.	220	6	1	19	—	29	—	210p
RTZ	260	95	1	—	—	—	—	346p
RTZ	390	10	—	33	1	41	—	"
RTZ	420	6	—	25	—	32	30	"
RTZ	460	3	5	16	—	25	—	"
Totals			209		1		30	

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

—	Mar. 28	Mar. 27	Mar. 26	Mar. 25	Mar. 24	Mar. 21	A year ago
Government Secs.	64.02	64.30	[illegible]1.61	64.40	64.19	64.10	75.28
Fixed Interest	64.81	64.97	[illegible]5.00	64.91	64.87	64.76	76.00
Industrial	421.5	423.1	435.1	430.3	427.2	429.9	530.8
Gold Mines	279.1	287.7	304.4	316.5	326.2	306.4	154.9
Ord. Div. Yield	8.17	8.16	7.94	8.02	8.07	7.99	5.35
Earnings, Yld. % (full)	20.26	20.3[illegible]	19.77	19.98	20.10	19.88	14.21
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	6.05	6.[illegible]	6.17	6.11	6.07	6.13	8.97
Total bargains	22,402	19,6[illegible]	17,678	21,194	19,238	21,317	—
Equity turnover £m	—	142.32	72.68	78.79	64.44	100.75	166.29
Equity bargains total	—	17,572	12,273	15,685	13,988	15,600	39,701

10 am 422.2. 11 am 420.1. Noon 421.0. 1 pm 420.3.
2 pm 421.3. 3 pm 421.3.
Latest Index 01-246 8026.
*Nil=5.79.
Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Industrial Ord. 1/7/35. Gold Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1980 High	1980 Low	Since Compilat'n High	Since Compilat'n Low
Govt. Secs.	69.2[illegible] (21/1)	63.85 (7/3)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	69.[illegible]1 (21/1)	64.70 (10/3)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	4[illegible]8.8 ([illegible]3/2)	406.9 (3/1)	558.6 (4/5/79)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	[illegible]77.9 (28/2)	265.5 (18/3)	442.3 (22/6/67)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. ACTIVITY

	Mar. 28	Mar. 27
—Daily		
Gilt Edged	117.8	108.3
Industrials	162.2	37.8
Speculative	40.3	34.7
Totals	102.8	65.3
5-d'y A'vr'ge		
Gilt Edged	130.0	129.2
Industrials	121.8	113.4
Speculative	39.0	40.6
Totals	84.2	80.3

RISES AND FALLS

	Yesterday Up	Yesterday Down	Yesterday Same	On the week Up	On the week Down	On the week Same
British Funds	6	62	22	222	152	76
Corpns., Dom. and Foreign Bonds	—	23	43	31	37	262
Industrials	103	481	813	846	1,589	4,552
Financial and Prop.	29	218	252	469	650	1,376
Oils	8	29	9	72	95	63
Plantations	5	5	16	35	37	63
Mines	18	75	61	142	357	271
Others	15	86	29	153	334	157
Totals	184	980	1,245	1,970	3,251	6,820

FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

	EQUITY GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section	Fri., Mar. 28, 1980 Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield % (Max.)	Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 30%)	Est. P/E Ratio (Net)	Thurs., Mar. 27 Index No.	Wed., Mar. 26 Index No.	Tues., Mar. 25 Index No.	Mon., Mar. 24 Index No.	Year ago (approx.) Index No.	Highs and Lows Index 1980 High	1980 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (172)	227.91	−0.5	19.32	6.89	6.53	228.96	231.45	229.50	229.96	270.05	250.52 (14/2)	208.87 (3/1)	287.87 (4/5/79)	50.71 (13/12/74)
2	Building Materials (28)	221.01	−0.8	18.33	7.10	6.88	222.69	226.75	226.08	226.48	250.05	244.27 (14/2)	194.00 (3/1)	270.52 (8/5/79)	44.27 (11/12/74)
3	Contracting, Construction (28)	347.12	−0.3	27.48	7.01	4.44	348.34	350.62	349.90	351.75	414.05	377.28 (29/2)	313.00 (3/1)	451.74 (4/5/79)	71.48 (2/12/74)
4	Electricals (15)	592.74	+0.1	13.62	4.21	9.78	591.99	597.09	589.21	593.23	654.84	646.77 (13/2)	539.56 (2/1)	698.53 (4/5/79)	84.71 (25/6/62)
5	Engineering Contractors (11)	270.16	−1.5	27.41	9.51	4.64	274.25	277.58	274.38	272.43	399.01	306.54 (14/2)	268.22 (18/3)	429.70 (4/5/79)	64.39 (2/1/75)
6	Mechanical Engineering (74)	154.78	−0.6	22.34	8.43	5.64	155.73	157.14	155.50	154.98	203.93	175.75 (14/2)	146.46 (3/1)	211.08 (8/5/79)	45.43 (6/1/75)
8	Metals and Metal Forming (16)	156.14	−1.0	22.02	9.92	5.41	157.72	159.53	158.75	158.84	175.21	171.28 (29/2)	141.95 (2/1)	192.29 (4/5/79)	49.65 (6/1/75)
11	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE)(50)	204.27	−0.7	16.81	6.19	7.36	205.67	213.76	211.65	211.17	242.93	226.35 (3/3)	184.82 (3/1)	259.88 (8/5/79)	38.39 (6/1/75)
12	Lt. Electronics, Radio, TV (15)	289.29	−0.9	13.29	4.60	9.65	291.99	304.49	300.98	300.44	329.86	322.21 (3/3)	247.36 (3/1)	358.49 (11/9/79)	42.85 (13/12/74)
13	Household Goods (14)	104.20	−0.2	28.52	10.58	4.15	104.43	105.74	105.42	105.22	172.85	116.40 (1/1)	103.55 (18/3)	263.22 (4/5/72)	63.92 (17/12/74)
14	Motors and Distributors (21)	101.76	−0.1	23.79	9.54	5.00	101.87	105.53	104.80	104.42	125.06	115.86 (29/1)	101.76 (28/3)	170.59 (15/1/69)	19.91 (6/1/75)
21	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (173)	208.50	−0.8	19.42	7.40	6.33	210.21	214.34	211.22	210.93	252.05	226.99 (21/1)	200.15 (3/1)	269.81 (4/5/79)	61.41 (13/12/74)
22	Breweries (14)	254.90	−1.1	17.34	6.89	6.77	257.74	267.43	258.27	256.11	273.94	273.68 (21/1)	248.93 (3/1)	306.13 (4/5/79)	69.47 (13/12/74)
23	Wines and Spirits (5)	286.29	−1.4	19.03	6.50	6.47	290.26	300.73	290.64	289.26	346.41	322.79 (21/1)	286.29 (28/3)	352.29 (29/3/79)	78.88 (13/12/74)
24	Entertainment, Catering (17)	283.50	—	19.57	7.41	6.39	283.43	291.96	285.46	286.23	340.33	312.63 (5/3)	268.87 (3/1)	374.32 (3/5/79)	54.83 (9/1/75)
25	Food Manufacturing (19)	183.95	−0.9	22.12	8.26	5.58	185.55	188.65	187.07	187.17	228.90	208.78 (14/2)	183.95 (28/3)	236.75 (4/5/79)	59.67 (11/12/74)
26	Food Retailing (15)	289.02	−0.9	14.37	5.22	8.31	291.70	294.50	291.93	293.65	296.33	325.52 (21/1)	286.28 (3/1)	332.56 (8/5/79)	54.25 (11/12/74)
32	Newspapers, Publishing (13)	394.36	−1.4	25.59	7.63	5.33	400.14	402.44	401.85	403.70	459.42	455.30 (14/2)	378.52 (3/1)	492.56 (8/5/79)	55.08 (6/1/75)
33	Packaging and Paper (15)	123.13	−1.3	24.81	9.34	5.09	124.69	125.75	124.32	123.79	150.08	134.86 (14/2)	111.30 (3/1)	155.65 (14/9/78)	43.46 (6/1/75)
34	Stores (43)	209.35	−1.2	14.66	5.53	8.82	211.86	214.49	212.68	212.01	248.86	227.12 (29/2)	188.71 (3/1)	273.48 (4/5/79)	52.63 (6/1/75)
35	Textiles (24)	119.86	−2.3	29.62	12.85	4.25	122.63	124.72	123.18	123.75	186.68	134.65 (19/2)	119.86 (28/3)	235.72 (17/1/67)	62.66 (11/12/74)
36	Tobaccos (3)	197.58	+1.8	29.47	11.91	3.85	194.18	199.21	197.16	197.16	275.27	221.71 (18/1)	192.86 (3/1)	339.16 (2/8/72)	94.34 (13/6/62)
37	Toys and Games (5)	31.03	−1.5	48.46	16.35	2.54	31.52	31.66	31.47	31.37	95.25	47.59 (1/1)	31.03 (28/3)	135.72 (16/1/70)	20.92 (6/1/75)
41	OTHER GROUPS (97)	192.65	−0.7	18.23	7.58	6.57	194.07	197.63	196.01	196.45	225.24	215.44 (14/2)	184.19 (3/1)	234.76 (8/5/79)	58.63 (6/1/75)
42	Chemicals (16)	287.41	−0.7	21.60	8.35	5.30	289.47	296.22	292.68	291.98	313.65	317.88 (13/2)	276.80 (3/1)	329.77 (4/5/79)	71.20 (1/12/74)
43	Pharmaceutical Products (7)	194.04	−0.8	13.23	6.74	9.17	195.57	199.22	198.38	200.33	279.68	221.00 (13/2)	191.78 (3/1)	291.13 (14/9/78)	189.93 (23/11/79)
44	Office Equipment (6)	106.63	−1.2	19.89	7.69	5.80	107.96	109.83	109.01	108.56	148.93	123.10 (14/2)	102.45 (3/1)	246.66 (1/9/72)	45.34 (2/1/75)
45	Shipping (11)	444.75	—	11.58	6.96	10.95	444.55	450.95	450.45	451.94	440.10	494.05 (14/2)	411.53 (10/1)	539.68 (18/5/77)	90.80 (29/6/62)
46	Miscellaneous (57)	226.25	−0.8	18.36	7.33	6.85	228.05	231.31	229.47	230.42	251.76	255.99 (14/2)	211.86 (3/1)	273.91 (8/5/79)	60.39 (6/7/75)
49	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (492)	215.89	−0.7	18.92	7.23	6.50	217.39	221.42	218.95	219.02	257.20	236.37 (14/2)	203.76 (3/1)	273.01 (4/5/79)	59.01 (13/12/74)
51	Oils (8)	710.59	+2.3	30.91	7.17	3.44	694.63	720.87	706.71	698.38	664.92	840.16 (5/3)	668.86 (8/1)	840.16 (5/3/80)	87.23 (29/5/62)
59	500 SHARE INDEX	255.03	−0.1	21.43	7.22	5.48	255.24	260.97	257.60	257.03	290.47	282.49 (15/2)	241.13 (3/1)	308.20 (4/5/79)	63.49 (13/12/74)
61	FINANCIAL GROUP (118)	185.21	−0.6	—	6.44	—	186.32	188.62	186.51	186.50	203.99	203.18 (13/2)	175.85 (3/1)	241.41 (11/4/72)	55.88 (13/12/74)
62	Banks (6)	203.54	−0.2	47.78	7.51	2.55	203.86	208.18	203.87	204.09	245.02	236.42 (13/2)	203.54 (28/3)	288.32 (20/7/72)	62.44 (12/12/74)
63	Discount Houses (10)	213.34	+0.5	—	9.36	—	212.38	211.42	209.06	209.86	258.28	246.96 (25/1)	206.50 (18/3)	293.13 (2/5/72)	81.40 (10/12/74)
64	Hire Purchase (5)	185.99	−0.3	17.66	5.34	7.35	186.57	185.70	185.80	184.99	184.68	189.10 (28/2)	160.72 (3/1)	433.74 (4/5/72)	38.83 (11/12/74)
65	Insurance (Life) (10)	160.73	−0.6	—	7.44	—	161.68	163.47	164.84	164.80	165.51	177.53 (28/2)	151.80 (3/1)	194.46 (15/3/72)	44.88 (2/1/75)
66	Insurance (Composite) (9)	119.04	−1.0	—	8.38	—	120.18	120.96	118.01	118.41	142.70	135.02 (13/2)	117.05 (3/1)	161.72 (6/10/77)	43.96 (13/12/74)
67	Insurance Brokers (10)	280.82	−2.6	17.55	7.18	8.02	288.42	292.90	291.73	287.94	344.82	299.96 (21/1)	256.48 (3/1)	372.27 (11/8/78)	65.86 (16/12/74)
68	Merchant Banks (14)	98.94	−0.5	—	6.23	—	99.44	99.31	99.21	99.16	94.11	106.46 (14/2)	87.47 (3/1)	278.57 (1/5/72)	31.21 (7/1/75)
69	Property (45)	353.48	−0.3	3.69	3.15	38.94	354.69	360.21	358.62	357.99	344.07	380.83 (3/3)	304.20 (3/1)	385.73 (8/10/79)	56.01 (20/4/65)
70	Miscellaneous (9)	126.95	−0.4	16.37	7.20	8.02	127.44	127.08	125.94	126.88	126.09	137.13 (14/2)	119.62 (3/1)	303.18 (18/5/72)	33.29 (17/12/74)
71	Investment Trusts (109)	203.99	−1.1	—	6.38	—	206.13	203.87	202.15	203.93	231.83	241.41 (14/2)	188.97 (3/1)	248.31 (26/4/79)	71.63 (13/12/74)
81	Mining Finance (4)	178.18	−1.8	12.94	4.96	9.39	181.50	187.79	187.63	188.75	129.30	230.07 (13/2)	161.95 (1/1)	230.07 (13/2/80)	66.31 (30/9/74)
91	Overseas Traders (19)	391.85	−0.2	12.90	6.87	9.50	392.61	396.14	389.50	388.15	376.96	437.34 (13/2)	330.03 (3/1)	437.34 (13/2/80)	97.37 (6/1/75)
99	ALL-SHARE INDEX (750)	238.52	−0.3	—	6.96	—	239.18	243.69	240.74	240.49	266.28	265.72 (13/2)	225.06 (3/1)	283.82 (4/5/79)	61.92 (13/12/74)

FIXED INTEREST PRICE INDICES

	British Government	Fri., Mar. 28	Day's change %	xd adj. today	xd adj. 1980 to date
1	Under 5 years	100.84	+0.08	—	2.30
2	5-15 years	102.89	−0.39	—	2.68
3	Over 15 years	106.79	−0.42	—	2.82
4	Irredeemables	119.06	−0.39	—	1.78
5	All stocks	103.25	−0.23	—	2.53

FIXED INTEREST YIELDS
British Govt. Av. Gross Red.

			Fri., Mar. 28	Thurs., Mar. 27	Year ago (approx.)	1980 Highs	1980 Lows
1	Low Coupons	5 years	13.21	13.16	9.10	13.32 (4/3)	11.79 (21/1)
2		15 years	13.04	12.96	9.95	13.12 (4/3)	11.79 (21/1)
3		25 years	13.04	12.96	10.65	13.12 (4/3)	11.79 (21/1)
4	Medium Coupons	5 years	15.14	15.10	10.78	15.37 (4/3)	13.88 (21/1)
5		15 years	14.66	14.58	11.41	14.71 (4/3)	13.31 (21/1)
6		25 years	14.46	14.37	11.71	14.50 (4/3)	13.20 (21/1)
7	High Coupons	5 years	15.19	15.15	11.17	15.44 (4/3)	14.31 (21/1)
8		15 years	14.98	14.89	11.80	15.06 (4/3)	13.76 (21/1)
9		25 years	14.85	14.77	12.06	14.92 (4/3)	13.45 (21/1)
10	Irredeemables		12.50	12.43	10.48	12.53 (21/3)	10.88 (21/1)

		Fri., March 28 Index No.	Fri., March 28 Yield %	Thur. Mar. 27	Wed. Mar. 26	Tues. Mar. 25	Mon. Mar. 24	Fri. Mar. 21	Thur. Mar. 20	Wed. Mar. 19	Year ago app'x	1980 Highs	1980 Lows	Since Compilation Highs	Since Compilation Lows
15	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	49.56	14.88	49.34	49.74	49.70	49.69	49.67	49.67	49.61	66.84	51.93 (31/1)	49.12 (7/1)	113.43 (25/10/65)	37.06 (5/1/75)
16	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	46.86	14.09	46.96	47.12	47.12	47.12	47.75	47.91	47.91	51.64	48.43 (29/1)	46.34 (2/1)	114.41 (15/9/65)	34.45 (4/12/74)
17	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	61.14	14.64	60.82	61.24	61.24	61.24	61.18	61.59	61.58	72.14	62.27 (30/1)	60.92 (27/3)	114.96 (7/10/65)	47.67 (5/1/76)

Equity Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value
Pharmaceutical Products	30/12/77	261.77
Other Groups	31/12/74	63.75
Overseas Traders	31/12/74	100.00
Engineering Contractors	31/12/71	153.84
Mechanical Engineering	31/12/71	153.84
Wines and Spirits	16/1/70	144.76
Toys and Games	16/1/70	135.72
Office Equipment	16/1/70	128.20
Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20
Miscellaneous Financial	31/12/70	128.06

Equity Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value
Food Manufacturing	29/12/67	114.13
Food Retailing	29/12/67	114.13
Insurance Brokers	29/12/67	96.67
Mining Finance	29/12/67	100.00
British Government	31/12/75	100.00
All Other	10/4/62	100.00

† Redemption yield. A new list of the constituents is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4, price 15p, by post 25p. A fortnightly record of group and subsection indices, dividend yields and earnings figures since 1962, with quarterly highs and lows of the indices, is obtainable from the Book Sales Department, FT Business Publishing Limited, Minster House, Arthur Street, London, EC4R 9AX, at £50 per copy.

CONSTITUENT CHANGES: Wardle (Bernard) (Chemicals) has been deleted and replaced by Fisher (James) and Sons (Shipping). CompAir has been deleted and replaced by Flight Refuelling (Holdings) (Mechanical Engineering).

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1980

The following securities quoted in the Share Information Service yesterday attained new Highs and Lows for 1980.

NEW HIGHS (9)

BRITISH FUNDS (1)
Treas. Variable '83
BUILDINGS (1)
Milbury
INDUSTRIALS (1)
Holden (A.)
MOTORS (1)
Davis (Godfrey)
TEXTILES (1)
Snia Viscosa Priv.
TRUSTS (3)
Argo Inv.
Tor Inv. Cap.
Clifton Invs.
RUBBERS (1)
Guthrie

NEW LOWS (203)

BRITISH FUNDS (1)
AMERICANS (22)
CANADIANS (12)
BANKS (6)
BEERS (3)
BUILDINGS (6)
CHEMICALS (5)
DRAPERY AND STORES (11)
ELECTRICALS (6)
ENGINEERING (24)
FOODS (2)
HOTELS (3)
INDUSTRIALS (52)
INSURANCE (1)
LEISURE (1)
MOTORS (3)
NEWSPAPERS (6)
PAPER AND PRINTING (3)
PROPERTY (1)
SHIPPING (1)
SHOES (1)
SOUTH AFRICANS (1)
TEXTILES (8)
TRUSTS (8)
OILS (4)
OVERSEAS TRADERS (2)
MINES (10)

OPTIONS

DEALING DATES

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Mar. 31	Apr. 11	Jul. 10	Jul. 21
Apr. 21	May 2	Aug. 7	Aug. 18
May 6	May 17	Aug. 28	Sept. 8

For rate indications see end of Share Information Service

Money was given for the call in Premier Oil, Burmah, Ashton Mining, Courtaulds, BP, UDT, Town and City, Keyser Ullmann, De Beers Defd., Unigate and Gresham Investment Trust. Puts were done in Hawker Siddeley and De La Rue, while doubles were arranged in Premier Oil and Burmah.

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Issue Price p	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing Price p	+ or −	Div. p. or Amount	Times Covered	Gross Yield	P.E. Ratio
50	50p	—	140	87	Berkley Exploration	102	−6	—	—	—	—
£1	F.P.	21/3	102	100	Child Health Res'ch	100	......	—	—	—	—
[illegible]	F.P.	—	775	675	Gen.Mng.&Fnc New	675	−75	—	—	—	—
10	F.P.	28/2	11¾	10	Keep Inv. Trust 5p	11	......	—	—	—	—
[illegible]	F.P.	7/3	89	70	Lon.Merc'tSecs.Defd	70	−2	—	—	—	—
90	F.P.	—	101	94	Morley (R.H.) 10p	99	......	b4.75	1.3	5.8	16.0
—	F.P.	—	34	28	Roche Plant 10p	28	......	1.25	2.7	6.4	6.5
10	F.P.	—	10¾	10½	Trst.ofProp.Shrs.5p	10¾	+¼	—	—	—	—
44	F.P.	—	60	56	WebberElctCom12½p	57	......	b3.5	1.3	8.8	10.2

FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Issue Price £	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing Price £	+ or −
[illegible]	F.P.	—	57p	33p	Aurora 3.85% Cum. Pref.	33pd	−½
‖120p	F.P.	15/2	122p	100p	Clifford (Chas.) 12% Cum. Pref.	108p	......
[illegible]	F.P.	30/5	98p	93	Felixstowe Dock 9½% Cum Red Pref.	94	......
[illegible]	—	2/9	112	105	Globe Inv Tst 11⅛% Conv Uns Ln '90-95	105	......
[illegible]	F.P.	—	98½	95½	Imp. Cont. Gas 8% Conv. Loan 1985-2000	95½	−½
[illegible]	Nil	—	2¼pm	1pm	Leigh Interests 10pc Conv. Uns Ln. 1984-85	1pm	......
[illegible]	F.P.	29/5	95⅛	93¾	Mid Kent Water 9% Red Pref. 1985	94	......
[illegible]	F.P.	24/4	97	95	Rk'm'nw'h & Uxbridge Wtr. 9% RdPf 1986	95	......
[illegible]	F.P.	30/5	99½	98½	Sutton District Water 10pc Red Pref. 1983	99½	......

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

Issue Price p	Amount Paid Up	Latest Renunc. Date ●	Latest Renunc. Date ■	1980 High	1980 Low	Stock	Closing price p	+ or −
135	F.P.	21/3	2/5	167	159	AGB Research	164	−2
$23.50	Nil	—	—	15	Nil pm	Bank of Montreal	Nilpm	......
330	F.P.	—	—	391	315	Cluff Oil	320	......
35½	F.P.	22/2	28/3	69½	55	Edwards (Louis C.)	58pm	......
60	F.P.	3/1	24/1	845	660	Hammerson Prop. A	785	−5
60cts	Nil	—	—	435pm	180pm	Pancontinental	265pm	+5
68	Nil	—	13/5	2½pm	¾pm	United Biscuits	¾pm	−1¼

Renunciation date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. b Figures based on prospectus estimate. g Assumed dividend and yield. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividend or ranking only for restricted dividends. § Placing price to public. pt Pence unless otherwise indicated. ¶ Issued by tender. ‖ Offered to holders of ordinary shares as a "rights." ** Issued by way of capitalisation. §§ Reintroduced. ¶¶ Issued in connection with reorganisation, merger or takeover. ‖‖ Introduction. □ Issued to former preference holders. ■ Allotment letters (or fully-paid). ● Provisional or partly-paid allotment letters. ★ With warrants. †† Unlisted security. ‡‡ Issued as units comprising 2 participating pref. shares and 1 ord. share at R3.50 per unit. †† Dealings under special rule.

UNIT TRUST SERVICE

OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS—contd.

Lloyds Bk. (C.I.) U/T Mgrs.				
P.O. Box 195, St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 27561				
Lloyds Tst. O'seas	51.8	55.1	+2.4	2.27
Next dealing April 3				
Lloyds Trust Gilt	9.26	9.27	......	13.50
Next dealing April 3.				
Lloyds Bank International, Geneva				
P.O. Box 438, 1211 Geneve 11 (Switzerland)				
Lloyds Int. Growth	SF402.0	431.0	......	0.8
Lloyds Int. Income	SF264.0	274.5	......	6.60
M & G Group				
Three Quays, Tower Hill EC3R 6BQ. 01-626 4588				
Atlantic Mar. 25	US$5.07	5.23	......	—
Australian Ex. Mar. 26.	US$5.25	5.53	......	—
Gold Ex.Acc.	US$42.32	46.01	......	5.19
Island	137.4	146.2	−0.9	4.07
(Accum Units)	204.4	217.5	−1.3	4.07
Midland Bank Tst. Corp. (Jersey) Ltd.				
28-34, Hill St., St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 36281				
Midland Drayton Gilt.	96.6	97.2	......	12.16
Samuel Montagu Ldn. Agents				
114, Old Broad St., EC2. 01-588 6464				
Apollo Fd. Mar. 18	SF48.80	52.95	......	3.33
Japfest. March 15	HK$14.87	16.10	......	0.42
117 Group Feb. 29	US$13.60	14.64	......	2.84
117 Jersey Mar. 19	£5.82	6.32	......	1.99
117 J'sey O's Mar. 12	£6.06	6.38	......	2.99
Murray, Johnstone (Inv. Adviser)				
163, Hope St., Glasgow, C2. 041-221 5521				
Hope St. Fd. Mar. 14	US$30.19		......	—
Murray Fund Mar. 15	US$14.58		......	—
Pacific Fund Feb. 29.	US$3.3500		......	—
Nat. Westminster Jersey Fd. Mgrs. Ltd.				
45 La Motte St., St. Helier, Jersey 0534 36241				
High Income Fund	45.6	47.0	......	12.77
Equity Fund	46.1	48.6xd	......	4.24
Negit S.A.				
10a Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg				
NAV Mar. 21	US$11.22	—	......	—
Negit Ltd.				
Bank of Bermuda Bldgs., Hamilton, Brmda.				
NAV Oct. 19	£4.35		......	—
Pacific Basin Fund				
10a Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg.				
NAV March 28	US$12.51		−0.09	—
Phoenix International				
PO Box 77, St. Peter Port, Guern. 0481 26741				
Inter-Dollar Fund	US$2.45	2.65	......	—
Far East Fund	US$1.65	1.78	......	—
Intl. Currency Fund	US$1.52	1.65	......	—
Dollar Fxd. Int. Fund.	US$1.81	1.95	......	—
Ster. Exempt Gilt Fd.	£1.29	1.40	......	—
Providence Capitol Life Ass. (C.I.)				
PO Box 121, St Peter Port, Guernsey 0481 26726/9				
Sterling Bond Fd.	42.8	45.0	......	—
Sterling Equity Fd	52.6	55.2	......	—
Intnl. Bond Fd.	US$95.0	100.0	......	—
Intnl. Equity Fd	US$96.0	101.0	......	—
Prices at March 26. Next dealing April 2.				
Quest Fund Mngmnt. (Jersey) Ltd.				
PO Box 194, St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 27441				
Quest Stlg.Fxd.Int.	£0.790	0.837		14.93
Quest Intl. Secs.	$0.867	0.933		4.61
Quest Intl. Bd.	$0.795	0.840		11.31
Prices on March 26. Next dealing April 2.				
Richmond Life Ass. Ltd.				
48, Athol Street, Douglas, I.O.M. 0624 23914				
(x)The Silver Trust	283.2	289.9	......	—
Do. Diamond Bd.	167.4	176.3	......	—
Do. Em IncomeBd.	116.4	124.4	......	14.36
Midway Deposit Bd	110.01	111.13	......	17.08
Carrillon C.G.T. Bd	64.9	68.4	......	—
Rothschild Asset Management (C.I.)				
P.O. Box 58, St. Julians Ct., Guernsey. 0481 26331				
O.C. America Fd.†	US$1.58	1.67	......	1.05
OCSm. Co.***	86.9	92.1xd	......	3.51
O.C. Commodity*	188.4	199.7	......	5.39
O.C. Dlr.Comdty.†	US$43.96	46.59	......	0.58
O.C. Hong Kg. Fd.†	HK$23.62	25.12	......	—
O.C. Sterling Fd.**		£11.542	+0.005	—
*Prices on March 24. Next dealing March 31.				
†Prices on March 21. Next dealing Apr. 8.				
**Daily dealings. ***Mar. 14.				
Rothschild Asset Mgt. (Bermuda)				
P.O. Box 664, Bk. of Bermuda Bld., Bermuda				
Reserve Assets Fd.	US$9.51	9.72	......	—
Prices on March 24. Next dealing April 1.				
Royal Trust (C.I.) Fd. Mgt. Ltd.				
P.O. Box 194, Royal Tst. Hse., Jersey. 0534 27441				
R.T. Int'l. Fd.	US$9.42	10.03	......	2.56
R.T. Int'l. (Jsy.) Fd.	73.0	78.0	......	3.97
Prices March 25. Next dealing April 1.				
Save & Prosper International				
Dealing to				
P.O. Box 73, St. Helier, Jersey 0534 73933				
Fixed Interest Funds				
Deutschmark Bd.***‡	DM9.07	9.58xd	......	5.22
Dlr. Fxd. Int.**‡	US$7.80	8.28	......	8.70
St. Fixed***‡	102.4	108.4	......	12.92
Yen Bond	Y941	995	......	5.03
Equity Funds				
Channel Capital‡	68.4	72.1	−0.7	2.67
Internatl. Gr.*‡	US$8.92	9.65	......	—
Far Eastern*‡	US$9.47	10.24	......	—
North American*‡	US$4.81	5.20	......	—
Sepro**‡	US$14.95	16.32	......	—
Trust Channel Isl.‡	69.2	72.9	−1.3	6.86
Commodity Funds				
Commodity****‡	161.1	169.9	......	—
Deposit Funds				
St. Deposit****‡	117.5	117.6	......	0.21
*Prices on March 25. **March 26. ***March 21. ****March 27. ‡Weekly dealings. ‡Daily dealings.				
Schlesinger International Mngt. Ltd.				
41, La Motte St., St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 73588				
S.A.I.L.	50.0	53.0	......	13.68
S.A.O.I.	US$0.75	0.79	......	9.49
S.A.S.C.O.—$	95.0	100.0	......	—
Gilt Fd.	19.1	19.9	−0.1	14.25
Intl. Fd. Jersey	85.0	89.0	......	3.93
Intnl.Fd.Lxmbrg.	12.19	12.88	−0.13	—
*Far East Fund	90.0	95.0	......	—
*Next sub. day April 2.				
Schroder Life Group				
Enterprise House, Portsmouth. 0705 27733				
International Funds				
£Equity	83.4	88.7	......	—
$Equity	US$1.762	1.874	......	—
£Fixed Interest	147.7	157.1	......	—
$Fixed Interest	US$1.128	1.200	......	—
£Managed	114.4	121.7	......	—
$Managed	US$1.443	1.535	......	—
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Ltd.				
120, Cheapside, EC2. 01-588 4000				
Amer Inv Tst Mar 28	US$14.61		−0.68	2.39
Asian Fd. Mar. 17	US$21.21	21.78		2.75
Cheapside $ March 27.	US$14.15		−0.27	2.83
Darling Fd. Mar. 14	A$2.98	3.07	......	4.20
Japan Fd. Mar. 20	US$6.08	6.51	......	0.77
Trafalgar Fd. Feb. 29	US$219.28		......	—
Sentry Assurance International Ltd.				
P.O. Box 1776, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.				
Managed Fund	US$1.823	4.9415	......	—
Singer & Friedlander Ldn. Agents.				
20, Cannon St., EC4. 01-248 9646				
Dekafonds	DM20.94	22.09	−0.10	7.26
Tokyo Trust Mar. 4	US$38.08	—	......	3.00
Standard Chartered Intl. Bd. Fd.				
37 rue Notre-Dame, Luxembourg.				
NAV March 24	US$9.53		......	—
Stronghold Management Limited				
P.O. Box 315, St. Helier, Jersey. 0534-71460				
Commodity Trust	133.59	140.62	......	—
Surinvest (Jersey) Ltd. (x)				
Queens Hse., Don Rd., St. Helier, Jsy. 0534 27349				
American Ind.Tst.	£4.59	4.69	......	—
Copper Trust	£14.76	15.12	......	—
Jap. Index Tst.	£5.90	6.03	......	—
Surinvest Trust Managers Ltd.				
48, Athol Street, Douglas, Isle of Man. 0624 23914				
The Coin Trust	102.6	108.0	......	—
TSB Unit Trust Managers (C.I.) Ltd.				
10, Wharf St., St. Helier, Jersey (CI). 0534 73494				
TSB Jersey Fund	49.4	52.0	......	5.53
TSB Guernsey Fund	49.4	52.0	......	5.53
Prices on March 26. Next sub. day April 1.				
TSB Gilt Fund Managers (C.I.) Ltd.				
10 Wharf St., St. Helier, Jersey (CI). 0534 73494				
TSB Gilt Fund	91.0	94.0	......	12.80
TSBGiltFd.(Jsy.)	91.0	94.0	......	12.80
Prices on March 26. Next sub. day April 2.				
Tokyo Pacific Holdings N.V.				
Intimis Management Co. N.V., Curacao.				
NAV per share March 24 US$72.51.				
Tokyo Pacific Hldgs. (Seaboard) N.V.				
Intimis Management Co. N.V., Curacao.				
NAV per share March 24 US$52.83.				
Tyndall Group				
P.O. Box 1256 Hamilton 5, Bermuda, 2-2760				
Overseas Mar. 26	US$1.18	1.25	......	6.00
(Accum. Units)	US$2.05	[illegible]	......	—
Man. Int. Feb. 21	US$3.32	3.50	......	—
2 New St., St. Helier, Jersey. 0534 37331/3				
TOFSL March 27	£7.80	8.35	......	2.94
(Accum. Shares)	£13.00	13.95	......	—
American Mar. 27	95.0	101.2	......	2.88
(Accum. shares)	99.4	106.0	......	—
Far Eastern Mar. 27	88.6	95.0	......	2.10
(Accum. shares)	91.6	98.0	......	—
European Mar. 27	66.8	72.0	......	3.05
(Accum. Shares)	68.6	73.8	......	—
Jersey Fund Mar. 26	150.0	159.2	......	9.39
(Non-J. Acc. Uts.)	240.6	256.2	......	—
Gilt Fund Mar. 26	94.2	96.8	......	12.48
(Accum. Shares)	149.2	151.8	......	—
Victory House, Douglas, Isle of Man. 0624 24111.				
Managed Mar. 20	143.4	151.0	......	—
High Inc. Gilt. Mar. 26	103.2	105.2	......	13.93
(Accum Shares)	103.2	105.2	......	—
Unilife Assurance (Overseas) Ltd.				
P.O. Box 1388, Hamilton 5-31, Bermuda				
Internl. Mngd. Fd.	US$1.05	—	......	—
Union-Investment-Gesellschaft mbH				
Postfach 16767, D 6000 Frankfurt 16.				
Unifonds	DM15.09	DM15.90	......	—
Unirak	DM46.73	49.10	−0.08	—
Unirenta	DM33.82	34.90	......	—
Utd. Intnl. Mngmnt (C.I.) Ltd.				
14, Mulcaster Street, St. Helier, Jersey				
U.I.B. Fund	US$92.87	95.28	−3.84	8.66
van Cutsem & Associates Ltd.				
42, Essex Street, London, WC2 01-353 6845				
PanAmer. O's. Fd.	US$119.95		......	—
S. G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.				
30, Gresham Street, EC2. 01-600 4555				
Conv. Bd. March 27	US$9.32		−0.03	—
Energy Int. March 27	US$29.88		−0.59	—
Grt. St. $Fd. Feb. 29	US$9.56		......	—
Merc. Eurobd. Mar. 12	US$10.26	10.36	......	[illegible]
Merc.My.Mkt.Mar.24	£11.89	11.91	......	
Warburg Invest. Mngt. Jrsy. Ltd.				
7 Library Place, St. Helier, Jsy. C1 0534 37217				
CMF Ltd. Mar. 28	US$12.99	13.33	−1.73	2.55
CMT Ltd. Mar. 28	£12.84	13.19	−1.08	2.43
Metal Tst. Mar. 20	£13.46	14.03	......	35.34
SMT Ltd. Mar. 6	£10.43	10.91	......	—
TMT Mar. 13	US$12.51	12.83	......	2.49
TMT Ltd. Mar. 13	£11.58	11.88	......	1.01
Wardley Investment Services Ltd.				
4th Floor, Hutchison House, Hong Kong				
Wardley Trust	HK$18.46	19.40	......	—
Wardley Nikko As. Fd	US$23.87	24.47	......	—
Wardley Bond Trust	US$9.00	9.20	......	—
Wardley Japan Trust	US$9.86	10.16	......	—
World Wide Growth Management				
10a, Boulevard Royal, Luxembourg				
Worldwide Gth Fd	US$22.56		−0.16	—
Wren Commodity Trust				
10, St. George's St., Douglas, IoM 0624 25015				
Wren Commod. Tst.	57.2	58.3	......	—

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NOTES

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OFFSHORE & OVERSEAS FUNDS

[illegible]

Continued on previous page

IDC

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BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

Five to Fifteen Years

Over Fifteen Years

Undated

INTERNATIONAL BANK

CORPORATION LOANS

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

LOANS

Public Board and Ind.

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Int.	Red. Yield
60	56½	Agric. Mt. 5pc '59-89	57½	−¼	8.07	13.34
78	73½	Alcan 10½pc '89-94	75½	......	14.05	14.70
28½	25	Met. Wtr. 3pc 'B'	25¼	......	11.98	13.22
102	89	U.S.M.C. 9pc 1982	90	......	10.21	—
87½	85½	Do. without Warrants	87	......	10.75	16.60

Financial

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Int.	Red. Yield
98½	96½	FFI 13pc 1981	96¾	......	13.44	17.14
96¼	93½	Do. 14pc '83	94½	......	14.22	15.97
84½	79½	ICFC 5½pc Deb. '80-82	80½xd	−1	6.00	15.53
74½	71½	Do. 6¼pcDb. '81-84	73	−2	8.25	15.30
86½	80½	Do. 10¾pc Uns.Ln. '86	84	−1	12.85	15.48
85	77	Do. 11pc Uns.Ln. '88	82	−1½	13.93	15.10
88	82	Do. 11¾pc Uns.Ln. '90	84½	−1½	14.37	15.40
61	56	Do. 7¼pcADeb. '89-92	58	−½	13.10	15.20
61	51½	Do. 7¼pcA Db. '91-94	53½xd	−½	13.53	15.05
72	64½	Do. 9pc 'A' '91-94	64½xd	−1	13.95	15.10
65½	61	Do. 8⅞pc Ln. '92-97	62xd	−1	14.57	15.69
95	84½	Do. 12½pc. Uns. Ln. 1992	84½xd	−1	14.79	15.35

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

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MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

FAR WEST RAND

O.F.S.

FINANCE

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

MINES—Continued

CENTRAL AFRICAN

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
430	275	Coronation	280xd	+5	†Q54c	2.2	11.0
680	530	Falcon Rh. 50c	600xd	......	†Q100c	1.7	11.5
47	34	Rhod'n Corp. 16½p	38	−1	0.56	8.5	2.1
267	160	Roan Cons. K4	179	−20	†Q0.12	ϕ	4.5
65	54	Wankie Col. Rh.1	57	−1	Q9c	1.5	10.9
54	28	Zam.Cpr.SBD0.24	28	−1	—	—	—

AUSTRALIAN

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
25	22	Acmex 50c	23	......	—	—	—
24	12	ACM 20c	14	......	—	—	—
115	75	Bond Corp.	75	−5	Q3.75	2.2	2.6
234	132	Bougainville 50 Toea	156	−2	sQ9½c	ϕ	13.6
265	195	BH South 50c	200	......	—	—	—
25	11½	Canada Northwest	14½	......	—	—	—
42	8	Carr Boyd 20c	21	−1	—	—	—
£26	£15¼	Central Pacific	£15¼	......	—	—	—
356	230	Conzinc Riotinto 50c	230	−4	Q15c	ϕ	3.4
39	17	Cultus Pacific N.L.	24	−1	—	—	—
50	20	Eagle Corp. 10c	20	−3	—	—	—
26¼	15¾	Endeavour 20c	18	......	—	—	—
258	175	G. M. Kalgoorlie 25c	175	−11	†Q3c	—	0.9
372	260	Hampton Areas 5p	345	−15	3.5	2.8	1.4
45	30	Haoma Gold N.L.	38	......	—	—	—
72	41	Metals Ex. 50c	56	−2	—	—	—
312	194	M.I.M. Hldgs. 50c	294	−4	†Q16.1c	1.8	4.2
38	18½	Minefields Expl.	38	......	—	—	—
155	60	Mount Lyell 25c	80	......	—	—	—
28	15	Newmetal 20c	18	......	—	—	—
207	138	North B. Hill 50c	138	−6	†Q12c	1.4	4.5
80	44½	Nth. Kalgurli	51	−1	—	—	—
165	90	Nth. Mining Corp.	104	+4	—	—	—
43	24	N. West Mining N.L.	33	......	—	—	—
235	163	Oakbridge $A1	165	+2	Q12c	4.7	3.8
122	80	Oilmin N. L.	80	......	—	—	—
230	128	Pacific Copper	186	+2	—	—	—
465	275	Pancont'l 25c	295	+5	—	—	—
78	47	Paringa M&Ex.5p	47	......	—	—	—
495	355	Peko-Wallsend 50c	365	......	†Q17.5c	ϕ	2.5
230	140	Seltrust A	150	......	—	—	—
£10¼	575	Southern Pacific	612	+12	—	—	—
75	31	Swan Resources 20c	47	−3	—	—	—
13	12	West Coast 25c	12	......	—	—	—
264	177	Westn. Mining 50c	190	−4	†Q7c	7.6	2.0
30	10	Westmex	15	......	—	—	—
94	56	Whim Creek 20c	82	+2	—	—	—
24	10½	York Resources	14	......	—	—	—

TINS

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
34	26	Amal. Nigeria	31	......	16.0	1.9	27.6
345	275	Ayer Hitam $M1	275	......	†Q29¾c	0.9	‡
67	48	Beralt Tin	50	+2	4.5	ϕ	12.9
185	149½	Berjuntai $M1	165	......	‡Q95c	1.8	‡
230	153	Geevor	210	......	8.71	3.1	5.9
11	10	Gold & Base 12½p	10	......	—	—	—
365	310	Gopeng Cons.	335	......	25.0	1.4	10.7
310	280	Hongkong	300	......	35.07	ϕ	17.1
105	90	Idris 10p	95	......	20.0	ϕ	11.7
15	14	Jantar 12½p	15	+1	—	—	—
77	64	Kamunting $M0.50	68	......	Q47½c	1.1	15.7
320	300	Killinghall $M1	320	......	Q100c	ϕ	6.5
670	485	Malay Dredging $M1	650	......	†Q105c	2.6	3.3
33	26	Pahang	28	......	0.44	0.3	2.3
108	92	Pengkalen 10p	92	......	6.0	1.3	9.3
290	230	Petaling $M1	265	......	Q150c	1.4	11.5
70	57	Saint Piran	63	......	‡2.5	6.4	‡
44	32	South Crofty 10p	34	+2	‡3.0	2.0	‡
255	180	South Kinta $M0.50	210	......	Q150c	1.0	14.5
400	340	Sthn Malayan $M1	375	−5	Q175c	2.1	9.5
295	215	Sungei Besi $M1	250	−5	†Q520c	1.0	42.5
48	28	Supreme Corp. $M1	48	......	Z010c	—	4.2
100	95	Tanjong 15p	95	......	Z4.5	ϕ	6.8
95	80	Tongkah H. Tin	80	......	Q45c	1.3	12.6
275	220	Tronoh $M1	225	......	†Q25c	5.2	2.3

COPPER

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
235	130	Messina R0.50	176	......	Q10c	ϕ	3.2

MISCELLANEOUS

1980 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div. Net	Cvr	Yld Gr's
160	78½	Anglo-Dominion	120	−23	—	—	—
97	58	Barymin	72	......	—	—	—
14½	12	Burma Mines 17½p	13½	......	—	—	—
502	330	Cons. Murch. 10c	380	−20	hQ180c	1.8	15.1
585	325	Northgate C$1	325	−35	—	—	—
485	327	R.T.Z.	342	−5	†13.5	3.4	4.8
33	16	Robert Mines	23	−4½	—	—	—
58	30	Sabina Inds. C$1	30	−2	—	—	—
650	485	Tara Explrn. $1	580	+5	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures. P/Es are calculated on "net" distribution basis, earnings per share being computed on profit after taxation and unrelieved ACT where applicable; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution; this compares gross dividend costs to profit after taxation, excluding exceptional profits/losses but including estimated extent of offsettable ACT. Yields are based on middle prices, are gross, adjusted to ACT of 30 per cent and allow for value of declared distribution and rights.

- ● "Tap Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents on application.
- ϕ Figures or report awaited.
- †† Unlisted security.
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividends or forecasts.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♣ Not comparable.
- ♦ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- § Forecast dividend; cover on earnings updated by latest interim statement.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ♥ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ♣ Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

§§ Yield based on assumption Treasury Bill Rate stays unchanged until maturity of stock. a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Minimum tender price. F Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979-80. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. H Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1978-79. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979-80. M Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1980. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1979. P Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1978-79. R Gross. T Figures assumed. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xR ex capital distribution.

REGIONAL MARKETS

The following is a selection of London quotations of shares previously listed only in regional markets. Prices of Irish issues, most of which are not officially listed in London, are as quoted on the Irish exchange.

Stock	Price	+ or −	IRISH	Price	+ or −
Albany Inv. 20p	28	......	Conv. 9% '80/82	£96	......
Bertam	18	......	Nat. 9¾% 84/89	£78½	......
Bdg'wtr. Est. 50p	365	......	Fin. 13% 97/02	£77¾	−⅛
Clover Croft	60	......	Alliance Gas	59	......
Craig & Rose £1	£10½	......	Arnott	380	......
Fife Forge	38xd	......	Carroll (P.J.)	51	......
Finlay Pkg. 5p	21	......	Clondalkin	100	−2
Graig Ship. £1	450	......	Concrete Prods.	80	......
Higsons Brew.	75	......	Helton (Hldgs.)	36	+4
Holt (Jos) 25p	296	......	Ins. Corp.	250	+15
I.O.M. Stm. £1	155	......	Irish Ropes	80	......
Pearce (C. H.)	385	......	Jacob	37	......
Peel Mills	57	......	T.M.G.	140	......
Sheff. Refrshmt.	97½	......	Unidare	100	......
Sindall (Wm.)	165	......			

OPTIONS

3-month Call Rates

Industrials					
A. Brew.	8	I.C.I.	32	Utd. Drapery	9
BOC Intl.	6	"Imps"	7	Vickers	14
B.S.R.	5	I.C.L.	45	Woolworths	6½
Babcock	12	Inveresk	5	**Property**	
Barclays Bank	30	Ladbroke	15	Brit. Land	7
Beecham	13	Legal & Gen.	14	Cap. Counties	9
Blue Circle	25	Lex Service	10	Land Secs.	25
Boots	17	Lloyds Bank	24	MEPC	17
Bowaters	16	"Lots"	3½	Peachey	13
B.A.T.	25	London Brick	6	Samuel Props.	12
Brown (J.)	7	Lucas Inds.	28	Town & City	2
Burton 'A'	22	"Mams"	14		
Cadburys	5½	Mrks. & Spncr.	9	**Oils**	
Courtaulds	8	Midland Bank	30	Brit. Petroleum	38
Debenhams	8	N.E.I.	5	Burmah Oil	20
Distillers	21	Nat. West. Bank	32	Charterhall	12
Dunlop	5½	P & O Dfd.	9	KCA	11
Eagle Star	14	Plessey	16	Premier	12
F.N.F.C.	2½	Racal Elect.	20	Shell	35
Gen. Accident	21	R.H.M.	4½	Tricentrol	35
Gen. Electric	30	Rank Org.	18	Ultramar	50
Glaxo	40	Reed Intnl.	17		
Grand Met.	12	Sears	5½	**Mines**	
G.U.S. 'A'	30	Tesco	7	Charter Cons.	18
Guardian	23	Thorn	25	Cons. Gold	52
G.K.N.	22	Trust Houses	14	Lonrho	12
Hawker Sidd	16	Tube Invest.	27	Rio T. Zinc	38
House of Fraser	12	Unilever	40		
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MAN OF THE WEEK

A new face for justice

BY JUSTINIAN

JUDGES, Francis Bacon once declared, ought to be more learned than witty. We all know what he meant. No one wants to have his case heard by a funny judge or the flippant judge, or for that matter a "with-it" judge. The truth is that the funny judge is a contradiction in terms. No doubt human beings involve themselves in ridiculous situations and behave in ridiculous ways, and their goings-on appear the more absurd when they are suddenly put under the cold eye of the law.

The distinctive quality of the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, is that he combines the intellectual rigors of a learned lawyer with a nice dash of wit, a ready and sometimes mordant wit. Life in his court will never be dull. His style is brisk, with little concession to elaborate or overworked agruments. His wit is more directed at puncturing the weighty formulae of the law when they are wheeled into place to mtasure the minor incidents of ordinary life than it is at the foibles of lesser

Lord Lane
Life in his court will never be dull.

mortals. The administration of justice is in desperate need of a springclean—some cases in the field of administrative law are taking as long as two years to come up for hearing. Lord Lane's approach will be to prune ruthlessly the workload of his court. If his period of office is characterised by an improvement in the administrative proces he will have earned the country's thanks.

To gauge Lord Lane's future performance is not easy. The office often fashions the man rather than the reverse. At the Bar he was renowned for his rumbustious style of advocacy. He could hardly be called a toady of the establishment. His reputation for forthright language about public administration was widely admired among the radical wing of the profession. But as a judge he has shown little, if any of the earlier relish for taking a swing at established order. His judgment last year when intervening in prisoners' rights by quashing disciplinary findings by the Board of Visitors at Hull Prison showed a streak of liberalism. But it was tarnished by his parting shot that he confessed to coming to the conclusion with some reluctance "because there is inexitably a feeling that the Board may have reached the right result ultimately: in spite of the irregularities." And for good measure he added: "These men were prisoners. Some of them were dangerous. Most of them were difficult. All of them were no doubt to some extent untrustworthy." The same could be said about the same people when they appeared in the criminal courts, but justice requires that they are always given the benefit of the doubt and a fair hearing.

There are doubts whether Lord Lane will respond to the dictates of the slander resources dictates of the slender resources of the prison system by drastically reducing the length of sentences of the short- and medium-terms. Although an early member of the Parole Board (which influenced his attitude to the value of keeping people in prison longer than was absolutely necessary he is by no stretch of imagination a "softy."

Reformist he may not be. Indeed away from judicial duties he devotes himself to leisure pursuits of gold and mundane domesticity rather than to the promotion of legal or social change. He is the archetypal conservative. But that is not to say that some change, devoutly wished for among the liberal element in the profession, will not come about. The law is due for a shake-up. But we may have to wait for Lord Lane's successor towards the end of this decade to achieve that.

Hopes rise on UK plea to EEC

THE Anglo-German Chequers' meeting ended last night with both sides optimistic about a solution to the EEC crisis caused by Britain's demands for a cut in the cost of its Community membership.

After a day and a half of talks, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of West Germany agreed that the problem could be solved provided constructive use was made of the weeks until the delayed Brussels summit, which will probably take place before the end of April.

Mrs. Thatcher said last night she believed a solution was now more possible than a few weeks ago.

Herr Schmidt said the British and German Governments could have solved the problem if left to themselves. But the entire EEC was involved, and Bonn was not going to act as a mediator between Britain and France.

While Germany is now understood to be keen to start discussing figures, the UK is reluctant to do so before the summit—unless, of course, they are the "right" figures.

Mrs. Thatcher envisaged a three-part arrangement to cut the estimated £1.3bn net British contribution this year.

- The UK's gross contribution would be cut according to the formula agreed at last November's Dublin summit (a reduction of around £350m).
- More EEC money would be found for projects in the UK that conformed with Community objectives.
- An agreement on curbing the proportion of the EEC budget spent on the Common Agricultural Policy would be necessary—a theme echoed by Herr Schmidt.

But the two leaders differed over the extent to which the problem of Britain's EEC contribution should be linked to other EEC issues. Herr Schmidt said a package deal was necessary, including farm spending, fisheries policy, the Anglo-French lamb war and "the first step to a joint energy policy."

But Mrs. Thatcher stressed that each issue must be treated on its merits and that the time scale for a solution would not necessarily be the same in each case.

On the European Monetary System, Herr Schmidt said it was up to the British Government to decide when to join.

Mrs. Thatcher said the battle against inflation took priority for the time being. She did not want to increase money supply by having to sell sterling to keep it within its EMS limits.

When the economy was under control, the country would be in a much better position to join the EMS, she said.

Both leaders said the uncertain world political outlook following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan emphasised the need for EEC unity and Western solidarity. Mrs. Thatcher also stressed the importance of NATO, and of continuing consultations with the U.S.

Herr Schmidt said Bonn was making no specific requests to the UK over energy, but it was essential that the Community had a common energy policy.

Court refuses new ruling on lamb ban

BY MARGARET VAN HATTEM IN BRUSSELS

THE EUROPEAN Court of Justice yesterday turned down the EEC Commission's request for an interim injunction to stop illegal French restrictions on imports of British lamb.

It followed the advice of Sig. F. Capotorti, European Advocate-General, who said earlier this week that since the court had already ruled against the restrictions, no further legal action was necessary.

But the court said there was no question that the French should have lifted the curbs on January 1, 1978, after the court's initial ruling.

Its ruling comes as little surprise to the Commission, which was reluctant to take further legal action because it felt the first ruling was sufficient. It also feared France might ignore an injunction just as it had ignored the ruling.

This would have underlined the Community's inability to enforce its laws.

The Commission sought the injunction after Britain urged it to do so.

Yesterday, no immediate reaction was available from Britain, but earlier this week Mr. Peter Walker, Agriculture Minister, said the Advocate-General's opinion was not a defeat for the UK.

On the contrary, it emphasised the dangers of France's continued defiance of the court.

Three help police probe into City metal deals

By David Holmes

THREE PEOPLE have been helping with inquiries in connection with City and metropolitan police fraud squad investigations into dealings on the London Metal Exchange, City of London police said yesterday. Three companies were also named as involved in the investigation.

The City of London-based exchange is Europe's leading centre for trading in metals.

The three companies named by the police were Lonconex, a metal merchant subsidiary of the U.S. based Primary Industries group and a ring-dealing member of the metal exchange, Wilson, Smithett and Cope, a ring-dealing member which is a subsidiary of Guinness Peat, and G. W. Joynson, a commodity broker owned by the Inchcape Group.

The police would not say whether the three men helping their inquiries were connected with any of the companies.

No charges have been made, and the exact nature of the suspected iregularities is not known.

Mr. Michael Brown, managing director of Lonconex, said yesterday: "There has been a breach of internal discipline and three employees have been suspended. Clients are totally unaffected and Lonconex activities are absolutely unaffected."

He declined to say whether any of the three had been assisting the police.

Both Wilson, Smithett and Cope, and Joynson, said they had no knowledge of any police investigation and were unable to say whether any member of either comapny or any employee might be involved.

City increasingly cautious on date for MLR cut

BY PETER RIDDELL, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CITY FINANCIAL markets are becoming increasingly cautious about the timing of any cut in Minimum Lending Rate. Expectations about the daté have been pushed back from the end of April or May until mid-summer, or possibly even later.

The predominant view is that the question is still one of timing rather than of direction.

The cautious mood was signalled yesterday when the Treasury bill rate rose by 0.07 per cent to a record 16.28 at the weekly tender. The discount market had taken a wait-and-see attitude before the Budget, but it now believes the Treasury bill rate should move more into line with other interest rates.

Liquidity shortages in the money market remain significant, partly because of continued large payments to the Government. The Bank of England has had to supply regular assistance.

Early next week the Bank will have to consider whether to postpone again a recall of special deposits due just after Easter.

The caution over short-term interest rates reflects both these immediate pressures and uncertainty about overseas interest rates and when bank lending to industry will slacken, especially as stocks remain at a high level. There is also some concern about what will happen when the corset controls on banks end in mid-June.

Gilt-edged analysts have been broadly favourable to the Budget. They believe that a smaller amount of gilt-edged stock will have to be sold in 1980-81 than over the last 12 months and that MLR should fall in the second half of this year.

This is in contrast to the 1978 and 1979 Budgets when there was apprehension about the incompatibility of fiscal and monetary policy.

On this occasion, the reduction in public sector borrowing and the tight monetary policy had been fully discounted before Budget Day. So, in the absence of major surprises and given the caution about MLR, gilt-edged prices have drifted. By last night, long-dated stocks had fallen by between £¾ and £1 since Wednesday.

The equity market has reacted less favourably to the Budget in the absence of significant direct financial assistance to industry. The F.T. 30-share index fell by 1.6 points yesterday to 421.5, after a 12-point drop on Thursday.

Swiss franc rallies

BY DAVID MARSH

THE SWISS franc rallied yesterday after the Swiss National Bank announced that it would intervene heavily to stabilise its currency.

The currency had weakened sharply on foreign exchange markets over the past few months.

The Swiss action is aimed particularly at boosting the franc against the Deutschemark. West Germany is Switzerland's most important trading partner, and the Swiss have traditionally been more concerned by fluctuations in the exchange rate against the D-mark than against the dollar.

The National Bank's new intervention strategy aims to prevent the franc falling further by setting a D-mark ceiling of 95 Swiss centimes.

The D-mark started yesterday above this level but heavy intervention purchases of Swiss francs against dollars by the National Bank brought it down to 94.6 by the close.

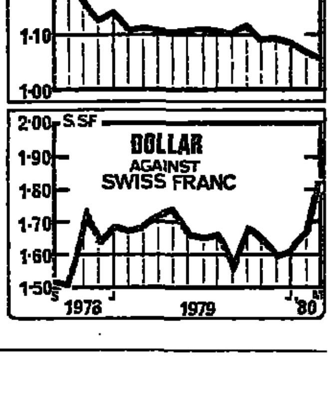
This compares with a rate of 90 centimes to the D-mark, at which the franc was effectively pegged for much of last year.

Yesterday's action follows a range of measures by Swiss authorities to support the franc over the past few months. These included an increase in interest rates and dismantling of barriers to capital inflows.

The franc also rallied slightly against the dollar, which fell back to SwFr 1.8250 from SwFr 1.83.

The dollar, however, rose against the D-mark, which declined generally in spite of Bundesbank support, dropping below the Belgian franc and the Danish krone to become thet weakest member of the European Monetary System.

Sterling held up fairly well, dropping 0.15 cents against the dollar to $2.1740, but its trade-weighted index rose slightly to 72.6 from 72.5.



Continued from Page 1

Postal ballot

could afford—would be accepted in the ballot.

The offer would increase the postman's basic rate from £67.09 a week to £77.15, the Post Office said. Average earnings would rise from £104 to £120 a week, and in inner London, from £121 to £137.

In return, UPW members will be asked to accept most of the conditions designed to improve the service's reliability which were rejected by conference delegates.

These include waiving age and service qualifications to allow easier promotion in sorting offices; working flexibly in local offices; allowing mail to be handled from other offices if the usual office could not cope; and giving priority to "time-critical" work.

But the Post Office is to go ahead unilaterally with plans for recruiting casual staff this summer to prevent a repetition of last year's big backlogs. For this it does not need union agreement, although co-operation would be important.

In a letter to staff yesterday, Mr. Denis Roberts, managing directors of posts, said local managers had been told to make plans within two weeks for handling the summer traffic.

"Just going on as we were don't do. I can't allow the postal failures of 1979 to be served up again to our customers in 1980," the letter said.

UPW leaders have themselves warned that failure to improve the service would make more vulnerable the Post Office's postal monopoly, now being reviewed in Whitehall.

Councils agree to 13% pay deal

BY ALAN PIKE, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

A SETTLEMENT, costing local authorities £300m a year, yesterday ended the dispute which has disrupted preparation of rate demands and threatened to close municipal airports during next week's Easter holiday.

Members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association were told to call off their fortnight-long campaign of industrial action after an agreement was reached which will increase local authorities' £2.3bn annual pay bill by 13 per cent.

The dispute arose out of a comparability exercise which formed part of last summer's pay settlement for the 560,000 local authority white-collar staff. The increases agreed yesterday come on top of 9.4 per cent received then.

According to union calculations the comparability data justified an increase in the wage bill of 14 per cent, but the employers' side responded with an offer worth only 8 per cent.

Yesterday's settlement comes close to meeting the union claim in full. It will provide increases ranging from 9.5 per cent at the lowest grade to 18 per cent at the top.

Weather

UK TODAY

SHOWERS and sunny intervals. Cloudy.

London, S.E., Cent. S., Cent. N. England, Midlands
Dry, with sunny intervals. Max 11C (52F).

E. Anglia, E. England
Cloudy, some showers. Max 10C (50F).

S.W., N.W. England, Lake Wales, Channel Is., I. of Man
Showers, sunny intervals. Max 12C (54F).

N.E. England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen
Cloudy, with wintry showers. Max 7C (45F).

S.W. Scotland, Cent. Highlands, Argyll, Glasgow, N. Ireland
Showers, sunny intervals. Max 9C (48F).

Outlook: mostly dry, becoming warmer.

WORLDWIDE

		Y'day midday °C	°F			Y'day midday °C	°F
Ajaccio	S	16	61	L. Plms.	F	24	75
Algiers	F	24	75	Lisbon	C	17	63
Amsdm.	R	13	55	Locarno	F	14	57
Athens	C	15	59	London	R	11	52
Bahrain	S	28	84	Luxmbg.	R	13	55
Barclna.	F	23	73	Luxor	R	26	79
Beirut	C	16	61	Madrid	F	18	64
Belfast	R	4	39	Majorca	F	22	72
Belgrd.	F	18	64	Malta	C	19	66
Berlin	C	16	61	Mchstr.	C	9	48
Biarritz	C	15	59	Melbne.	R	19	66
Bmghm.	C	12	54	Milan	S	13	55
Blackp'l	R	6	43	M'ntreal	C	8	47
Bordx.	C	16	61	Moscow	C	0	32
Boulgn.	C	13	55	Munich	F	16	61
Bristol	R	8	47	Nairobi	S	20	68
Brussels	R	14	57	Naples	F	18	64
Budpst.	C	15	59	Nwcstl.	C	5	41
B. Aires	S	27	81	N. York	S	10	50
Cairo	S	22	72	Nice	C	15	59
Cardiff	C	9	48	Nicosia	R	13	55
Cas'b'ca	S	22	72	Oporto	C	14	57
Cape T	C	22	72	Oslo	Sn	-2	28
Chicago	C	3	38	Paris	C	15	59
Cologne	C	16	61	Perth	R	26	79
Conhgn.	C	4	39	Prague	C	14	57
Corfu	S	17	63	Reykjvk.	S	5	41
Dublin	R	7	45	Rhodes	F	14	57
Dbrvnk.	F	15	59	Rio J'o	S	32	90
Ednbgh.	C	5	41	Rome	C	18	64
Faro	C	17	63	Salzb'rg	F	16	61
Florence	C	17	63	Singapr.	S	30	88
Frankf't	C	15	59	Stckhm.	C	1	34
Funchal	S	19	66	Strasb'g	R	17	63
Geneva	C	14	57	Sydney	S	25	77
Gibrltr.	F	23	73	Tangier	F	20	68
Glasgow	C	5	41	Tel Aviv	F	18	64
G'rnsey	F	11	52	Tokyo	C	15	59
Helsinki	C	2	36	Toronto	C	5	41
H. Kong	S	19	66	Tunis	C	21	70
Innsbr'k	F	15	59	Valencia	S	23	77
Invrnss.	C	5	41	Venice	C	10	50
I.o.Man	R	5	41	Vienna	C	14	57
Istanbul	R	5	41	Warsaw	R	8	47
Jersey	S	11	52	Zurich	C	15	59
Jo'burg	S	22	72				

C—Cloudy. F—Fair. Fg—Fog. R—Rain. S—Sunny. Sl—Sleet. Sn—Snow.

THE LEX COLUMN

The market has its doubts

This week the stock market was given a view of the medium term future—but Sir Geoffrey Howe's version of 1984 did not seem to go down a lot better than George Orwell's. The equity market understandably took a nervous view of the Chancellor's decision to leave industry to solve its own problems with only marginal help from tax changes. The FT 30-Share Index rose 5.2 points over the three days before the Budget speech, since when it has fallen by 13.6 points. Much of the strength of the equity market earlier in the year has now evaporated: a broad index like the All-Share is now only about 6 per cent above its early January low point.

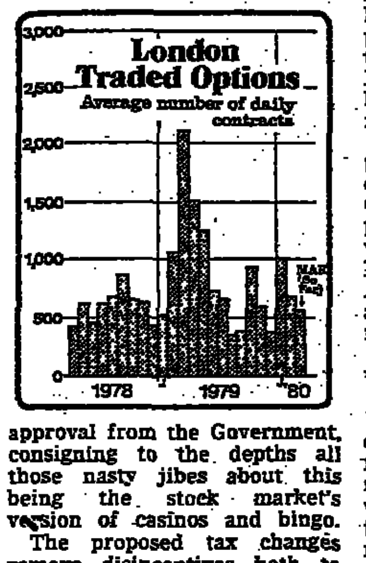
But equities were always likely to be depressed by the grim industrial outlook. The dullness of gilt-edged since the Budget is, on the face of it, rather more surprising. In setting out the detailed fiscal and monetary strategy for the next four years the Government is painting a picture which ought to be highly favourable to holders of fixed interest bonds. The suggestion is that new issues of gilts will shrink to a very small figure, while inflation should be down to around 5 per cent by the mid-1980s. But all that has happened in the past two days is that gilts have fallen by a point or so, while money market interest rates have moved back up over the 18 per cent level.

Part of the blame for this negative response can be put down to the prevailing international gloom. There is, too, an awkward technical position in gilts in that the Government broker's tap prices are just slightly above the market level, a position which can often lead to near stalemate. The most important reason, however, is probably that buyers of gilt-edged have got ahead of the game rather too often recently—last summer, and again in January—and have had their fingers burned. Until there are clear signs of an easing of the pressures on short term interest rates, buyers of long bonds are bound to continue to be wary.

Traded options

For the London Traded Options market, probably the most important feature of this wek's tax relaxation is that it was announced in the Chancellor's Budget speech — rather than smuggled in at the Finance Bill stage. The exchange has therefore been given some kind of seal of approval from the Government, consigning to the depths all those nasty jibes about this being the stock market's version of casinos and bingo.

Index fell 1.6 to 421.5



The proposed tax changes remove disincentives both to buying options and to writing them, the latter being less popular currently. But the disincentives have been largely psychological in their impact. The treatment of options as a wasting asset is a relatively minor irritant to buyers of options in practice, since most hold them for only a week or so of the three to nine months they are extant.

The tax changes clear the way, nevertheless, for a major development of the market in the autumn, when the new Stock Exchange computer Topic is due to be unveiled. This will allow the number of companies quoted to be expanded from the present 14 to (over a period) the 40 planned when the market was initiated. It will also allow put options to be traded.

So far, the market has been dominated by private investors rather than institutions, though a limited number of the latter have taken part. No immediate upsurge in institutional interest is likely, but volume is expected to be moving steadily upward by the time of the introduction of Topic. The pension funds, however, are unlikely to join the pack, since options will not be treated as investments by the Revenue. This means the funds' general exemption from tax will not apply.

While all the publicity has concentrated on the treatment of options as a wasting asset, the inability to offset losses against profits when closing positions has acted as a far greater deterrent to the writing side. In fact, the imbalance between writing and buying volumes forced Vickers da Costa to abandon its role as a market since the stamp duty costs of buying stock to cover options put it at too severe a disadvantage to its jobber competitors. If writing picks up Vickers may be able to re-assume its market making role.

Meantime the introduction of puts will enhance the defensive characteristics of the market. Over the last year puts have played a key role in the better volume figures seen on the European Options Exchange in Amsterdam, where daily transactions hit a record of 9,165 recently.

Wall Street

The New York Stock Exchange was looking sober but reasonably healthy yesterday morning following a degree of volatility on Thursday which took the breath away from the most hardened veterans. A bald announcement from the Securities and Exchange Commission that trading had been suspended in the shares of one of Wall Street's leading broker/dealers knocked the Dow Jones industrial average back by over 27 points in just over an hour. But a calming statement from Bache, the broker concerned, immediately reversed the setback, and by lunch time yesterday share prices were higher than they had been before it all started.

Maybe the SEC was being a little heavy footed. Its reaction to that suggestion is to point out that it regularly suspends trading in shares, always for a period of up to ten days, and that such a suspension need not reflect on the standing of the company concerned. Often the move follows an unexplained level of trading activity in the shares concerned, and this seems to have been the case with Bache. No restrictions have been placed on the firm's ability to do business in the market which would have been the case if it had been badly damaged by losses. Like all members firms, it is required by the Exchange and the SEC to maintain a minimum level of capital in relation to the extent of its trading activities.

The way that the market recovered from its initial knee jerk reaction supports the hope that any repercussions from the upheaval in silver bullion can largely be confined to the commodity markets. The trouble is that only a handful of people know what is going on, and they are not talking.

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